

Continental Marine

Winter/Spring 2001/Vol. 25, No. 1

**Arctic Care
2001**

**MOUT
Training**

**MarForRes
FTX**

**Cold
Weather
Training**



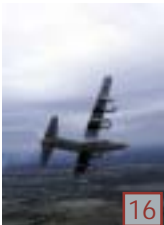
**Special Edition:
Almanac 2001**

Features



La. -- Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters Marines take to the field to sharpen their basic warrior skills.

14



Texas -- Marines from VMGR-234 obtain 100,000 Class A mishap free flight hours.

16



Hawaii -- Marines from 4th Recon Bn. practice jumps.

17



Conn. -- Marines from Company C, 1st Bn., 25th Marines attack the Army MOUT Facility at Fort Knox, Ky.

18



Mo. -- Marines from 3rd Bn., 24th Marines honor Makin Raider.

19



Providing humanitarian assistance: Servicemembers help Alaskan villagers during Arctic Care 2001.

30



Calif. -- Marines from MWSS-473 wrap up a year of valuable training.

20



N.J. -- Marines from Battery G, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines conduct cold weather training at Fort Dix.

26



D.C. -- MarForRes participates in Presidential Inauguration parade.

28

On the Covers



Front: Alaska -- Marines from 6th Engineer Support Bn., 4th Force Service Support Group work on a shelter for a fuel tank during Arctic Care 2001. Photo by Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon



Back: La. -- Marine Corps Band New Orleans performs during a Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans. Photo by Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

Departments

- 3 Command page
- 4 News Line
- 9 Focus on the Force

Almanac 2001

Get the information on manpower, reserve unit locations, command histories and missions. Find out why our Marines are truly "twice the citizens."

The 2001 Almanac is designed to be pulled out and used as a reference.

Marine Forces Reserve

Commander: Maj. Gen. D.M. Mize
Deputy Commander: BGen. J.A. Gallinetti
Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. R.I. Thornton

Public Affairs Office

Director: Col. B.J. Statia
Deputy Director: A.R. Foucha
Public Affairs Chief: Gunnery Sgt. J. D. Edwards

"Continental Marine" Staff

Media Officer: Maj. C.C. Dysart
Media Chief: Staff Sgt. P.L. Bass
Webmaster: Staff Sgt. P.R. Harring
Editor: Cpl. Z. A. Bathon
Assistant Editor: Cpl. C.T. Randall
Correspondent: Sgt. W.T. Kinsey
Correspondent: Sgt. M.W. Scotten
Correspondent: Cpl. S.L. Standifid

Editor's note: We need your help to tell the Marine Corps story! Send us any photos you may have from your Annual Training, along with background information on your AT and unit to Webmaster@mfr.usmc.mil. Get published in the Continental Marine. For more information, call (504) 678-4179.

"Continental Marine" (USPS 013357) is published quarterly by the Public Affairs Office, Marine Forces Reserve, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146-5400. This Department of Defense magazine is an authorized, unofficial publication for members of the military services. Contents of "Continental Marine" are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the United States Marine Corps. This publication is produced commercially in accordance with the Department of the Navy and Marine Corps publications and printing regulations with government appropriated funds. Visit "Continental Marine" online at <http://www.mfr.usmc.mil>. Editorial staff may be reached at (504) 678-4179. Periodicals postage paid at New Orleans, LA 70113, and additional mailing offices. Postmaster: send address changes to: Public Affairs Office, Marine Forces Reserve, 4400 Dauphine Street, New Orleans, LA 70146-5400.

MARFORRES

COMMAND PAGE

Maj. Gen. D. M. Mize, Commander, Marine Forces Reserve



Official USMC photo

We are currently marking the 10-year anniversary of Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm. I want to reflect for a moment on the changes and progress we have made over the past decade. It has happened so gradually that only when you compare where we were then with where we are today can you see the monumental difference.

Without a doubt, the Gulf War was a high-water mark for the Marine Corps Reserve. We mobilized over 30,000 reservists in support of in-theater operations as well as bases and stations and exercises. Across the board, the reserves received great accolades for their outstanding conduct on the field of battle and elsewhere.

That performance was the catalyst and continued excellence in the years since has resulted in bigger and better opportunities for the Marine Corps Reserve.

One of the most significant changes is in the war plans. Previously all of the active component deployed first followed by the reserves. Today we are truly integrated. A number of our units are now early deployers and all of our units are included in the war plans.

"Without a doubt, the Gulf War was a high-water mark for the Marine Corps Reserve."



Official USMC Photo

More obvious is the continual increase in operations tempo relief we are providing to the active component. The reduction in active forces has steadily increased their reliance on the reserves. Our requirements have grown from individual augmentations to unit support of exercises to unit relief in real-world operations.

A reserve platoon is currently providing security aboard Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. Next summer, 250 reserves will embark on a six-month deployment around South America for UNITAS. This is just the beginning.

Our success has produced new challenges. We need to be "more ready" as units and individuals. And, we need to get the mobilization process down to a fine art. I know you all are up to the task.

The great work of all of the reserve component and the active duty Marines who support the reserves has gotten us where we are today. I'm confident the next 10 years will take us even farther.

Semper Fidelis,

DMMize



Official USMC Photo

News Line

New policy intended to ease burden of active duty personnel

Marine Corps Times, staff writer

Reservists also will be reimbursed for travel expenses if the funeral is more than 50 miles from their home or out-

The law defined funeral-honors duty as a minimum two-hour duty performance period with certain reimbursable travel expenses, a single inactive-duty service credit point and \$50 stipend. The 2001 Defense Authorization act set the payment at \$50 or one day of drill pay. For most E-4s and all E-5s and above, a day of drill pay is worth more than \$50.

For more information, see MarAdmin 016/01.

[illegible]

Toys For Tots results are in

Marine Toys For Tots Foundation

Washington D.C.

WASHINGTON D.C. — The results of the 53rd annual Toys For Tots campaign have been tabulated, and it was another record breaking year.

More than 15.8 million new toys were distributed to 6.3 million children throughout the nation.

Toys For Tots is the Marine Corps premier community action program, one of the nation's flagship Christmas charitable causes and the only charitable endeavor within the Department of Defense which reaches outside

the military establishment to make a difference in lives and communities nationwide.

The Marine Toys For Tots Foundation, the fund-raising and support organization for the Marine Corps Toys For Tots program, had an equally successful year in 2000.

The Foundation supplemented the toy collections of local community campaigns with 4.5 million toys valued at \$35 million, provided 35 tons of promotional and support materials valued at \$250,000, and provided a broad range of other support essential to the success of the 2000 campaign.



Photo Courtesy of 8th Tank Bn.

Florida Governor Jeb Bush applauds after being "dunked" during the Bikes for Tikes event in Tallahassee.

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida Governor Jeb Bush lent his support to a Toys For Tots event here last July. As part of its annual "Bikes For Tikes" bicycle collection effort, Company C, 8th Tank Battalion, invited Governor Bush to take his turn sitting in a celebrity dunking booth.

The event collected over 100 used bicycles.

Local bicycle enthusiasts take the used bicycles from the Marines and repair them between July and December each year, ensuring that each bicycle can be distributed to a needy child at Christmas.



Photo Courtesy of 4th Reconnaissance Bn.

RENO, Nev. — Staff Sgt. Frederic J. Zeyer, S-4 chief, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, sits in a dunk tank as part of the battalion's effort to collect toys for Toys For Tots during their Toy Dive event to fill boat loads of toys in December.

During the event, the Recon Marines provided a static display of their diving gear and weapons and a local radio DJ got into a tank of water for 72 hours.

TRICARE expands dental program to include reservist's family members

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

MARINE FORCES RESERVE HEADQUARTERS, New Orleans – Marine reservists concerned about family dental health coverage may get some relief with a new program.

Beginning Feb. 1, Selected Reserve and Individual Ready Reserve servicemembers and their families are covered as part of the new TRICARE Dental Program, which replaced the TRICARE Family Member Dental Plan and the TRICARE Selected Reserve Dental Program.


Under the new program, eligibility has been expanded to include family members of Selected Reserve and IRR servicemembers.

The expanded benefits include discounts on general anesthesia, intravenous sedation, athletic mouth guards, porcelain veneers and internal bleaching of anterior teeth. It also expands the age limits for orthodontic coverage, according to Master Chief Petty Officer Matthew D. Staden, command master chief, Marine Forces Reserve.

Children under age four can be voluntarily enrolled now as well.

Along with the expanded benefits, the annual maximum increased from \$1,000 to \$1,200 and the lifetime orthodontic maximum increased from \$1,200 to \$1,500, according to Petty Officer 2nd Class David Cochennic, TRICARE representative, MarForRes.

With the new program there are two types of payment plans. The premium-sharing plan allows the enrollee



Premium Payments

	<u>Single</u>	<u>Family</u>
* Shared Premium		
- AD Family members	\$7.63	\$19.08
- Selected Reserve		
- IRR (Special Mobilization Category)		
* Full Premium		
- IRR (other than Special)	\$19.08	\$47.69
- SELRES and IRR family members		

to pay 40 percent of the monthly premium while the government pays 60 percent. Family members of active duty, members of the Selected Reserve, members enrolled in the IRR (Special Mobilization Category) and families of reservists who are on active duty for more than 30 days are eligible for this plan.

With the full premium plan, the monthly premiums are the responsibility of the servicemember.

Those eligible for this plan include members of the IRR and families of Selected Reserve or IRR members when the servicemember is not on active duty for more than 30 days.

Servicemembers already enrolled in TFMDP or TSRDP will be automatically transferred into the TDP.

To be eligible for the TDP, an in-

dividual must be an active duty, selected reserve or individual ready reserve servicemember or family member. This includes children under 21 or up to age 23, if enrolled full time in an accredited college or university, and children disabled prior to age 21 or prior to 23, if full-time student.

The individual's sponsor must have at least 12 months remaining on his contract service commitment with the parent service.

Family members of a reservist ordered to active duty for more than 30 days, but less than 12 months (other than training), in support of certain specific contingency operations are also eligible.

For more information on the TDP call 1-800-866-8499 or go to the website at www.ucci.com.

MARFORRES

News Line

I MACE garners DoD Family Readiness Award

Public Affairs Office

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BELLE CHASE, La.—The I Marine Expeditionary Force Augmentation Command Element, Camp Pendleton, Calif., was recently recognized by the Department of Defense as the Marine Corps Reserve unit with the family readiness program most favorably impacting mission readiness. The award included a certificate of appreciation from the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs and an engraved silver tray.

The certificate and tray were officially presented to Susan Williams, I MACE key volunteer coordinator, by Maj. Gen. David M. Mize, commander of Marine Forces Reserve, at the start of the key volunteer network training course here on Jan. 24. In addition to acting as KVC for I MACE, Williams is also a volunteer instructor for the MarForRes Family Readiness training courses.

Lt.Col. Anthony Weddington, director of Marine Corps Community Services for MarForRes, accepted the award on behalf of I MACE at a Pentagon ceremony on Jan. 19.

"This award is another important step in the department's continuing effort to recognize the reserve components as full partners of the Total Force," said Charles L. Cragin, Principal deputy assistant secretary of defense for Reserve affairs, during an interview for a news release by the Department of



Lance Cpl. Brian R. McConnell

(left to right) Mike Royer, MarForRes QOL program manager, Susan Williams, I MACE key volunteer coordinator, and Jane Mize, MarForRes key volunteer advisor, display a Letter of Appreciation from the Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Defense.

"They have military and civilian careers and must rely on their family readiness programs to assist them in preparing their loved ones for their absence while performing military duty," said Cragin.

Indiana Reservists get new drill center

Sgt. Trent Kinsey

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

GRISSOM AIR FORCE BASE, Ind. — The Marines of Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, officially opened their new home here with a ribbon cutting ceremony, Feb. 10.

The unit moved from Wayne, Ind. to Grissom, approximately 90 miles away.

"We were formerly located in an old school house built in 1916," said Capt. Daniel Baker, Inspector-Instructor, Detachment 1. "We were in the top five for the worst facilities for Marine Forces Reserve. This has been a 100 percent improvement."

The Marines will be sharing space with the Grissom

Civil Air Patrol in an old fire station for the next two years.

"The move was worth it," said Baker. "Here the Air Force has opened its arms to us."

At Grissom, they are also going to have the advantage of a medical and dental clinic, billeting and messing facilities, and 40 acres of land for training.

Maj. Gen. Mize and Sgt. Maj. Richard Thornton, commander and sergeant major of MarForRes, respectively spoke to the Marines after the ceremony about the important role of the Communications Company in Marine Forces Reserve, retention and the history of the company. They also spoke of the importance of education, both civilian and military.

"The Marines are loving life," said Baker. "The distance to travel will be an inconvenience but the benefits will outweigh it. This move is going to make better Marines."

MARFORRES

News Line

MarForRes prepares for “Smart Card” issue

Sgt. Trent Kinsey

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

MARINE FORCES RESERVE HEADQUARTERS — A new identification card, with information storage features, is now being issued to Marines at select units Marine Corps wide, in order to test its capabilities for future use.

The Common Access Card was made public by the Office of the Secretary of Defense and has already been issued to Marines at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

The card’s main uses will be to act as an ID card, provide physical access to buildings, flight-lines, etc., and to provide public key identity for access to network systems and electronic commerce.

The plan is to issue the card to all Marines, both active and reserve, and all civilians and contractors with e-mail capabilities by the beginning of fiscal year 2002.

Currently, the card is in a beta testing phase where it will be evaluated for

information integrity.

The card has three information transfer features. The first feature is a magnetic strip, like on the back of a credit card; the second is two bar codes located on the card; and the third is a 32 kilobyte chip used to store and process information.

All of these items are used to access information about the cardholder.

Marine Corps Reserve Support Command, Kansas City, Mo., will be getting an entirely new system to print and input data so they can begin the second phase of beta testing at MCRSC and Headquarters Company, 24th Marines.

The card and the systems will be sent to approximately 800 administration offices throughout the Marine Corps. According to Lt. Col. Austin Smith, total force administrative coordinator, MCRSC, most locations will only get the equipment needed to upgrade their current ID card systems.

MCRSC is hoping to get extra con-

firmation of reserve training information. “We are pursuing the CAC based drill accounting,” said Smith. “This will make it so that they can swipe their card and it will take an accurate drill attendance.”

Marines who have lost their ID card, been recently promoted, had changes which require a new ID card and who are stationed where their DEERS/RAPIDS station has the equipment will be the first to be issued the card.

According to Department of Defense news releases, the card will reduce time spent and paper wasted by having the cardholder’s information loaded on the card, allowing the cardholder to update only the information that needs to be updated.

The card will also help armorers track issued weapons and reduce time in mess hall lines by transferring the Marine’s information from the card to the computer eliminating manual input.

Marine reservist qualifies for Armed Forces Ski Team



Photo Courtesy of Capt. Matthew C. Hill

Capt. Matthew W. Hill finished 3rd in Giant Slalom at CISM Ski Team Trials, Stowe Vt.

STOWE, Vt. — Reserve Capt. Matthew C. Hill, intelligence officer, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, 4th Marine Division, Devens, Mass., finished third in the Giant Slalom at the CISM Ski Team trials Jan 29- Feb 1.

The third place finish qualified him for the U.S. Armed Forces Ski

Team, and allowed him to compete in the CISM Ski Championship March 6-11 here.

Hill, a ski industry consultant from Mt. Sunapee, N. H. has been racing as a professional for more than 3 years. He is also the first Marine to make the team in over 10 years.

Fallen Marine's children receive \$10,000 scholarships

Cpl. Mike Camacho

MCAS Miramar, Calif.

CAMP PENDLETON, Calif. — The Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation Inc. donated two \$10,000 maturity-valued U.S. Treasury Bonds to the children of deceased Gunnery Sgt. Nestor C. Villanueva, Dec. 12 at the Staff Noncommissioned Officer's Club here.

Col. Christopher K. Joyce, commanding officer, Marine Wing Support Group 47, presented the bonds to 13-year-old Jaye Villanueva and 15-year-old Leila Villanueva. A Marine Corps red rose pin, also a gift from the foundation, was presented to Villanueva's widow, Jocelyn. Each pin has a different message and the Villanueva's says, "We care."

This kind of support and assistance is rendered to children of Marines or federal law enforcement personnel who were killed on duty or died while serving their country.

All donations go toward educational scholarships and special medical equipment. The foundation has distributed more than \$3 million in aid to children.

"This foundation shows that we are



Cpl. Mike Camacho

Col. Christopher K. Joyce, commanding officer, Marine Wing Support Group 47, presents two \$10,000 education bonds for the children of deceased Gunnery Sgt. Nestor C. Villanueva.

a Marine Corps family, and we do take care of our own," said Joyce. Gunnery Sgt. Villanueva was a member of Marine Wing Support Squadron 471's Inspector-Instructor staff in Ft. Worth Texas. He recently passed away of a heart attack.

"Gunnery Sgt. Villanueva's death has affected every member of MWSG-47, including the local MWSS-473 at

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar," said Capt. Elizabeth J. Donnell, officer in charge of an MWSS-473 detachment.

The Villanueva children take a lot of pride in their father's service to their country, and both children plan on pursuing careers in the Marine Corps by going to the Naval Academy in Annapolis, Md.



Gunnery Sgt. Charles A. Betz

RAVENNA, Ohio — Gunnery Sgt. Gregory Johnson, Inspector-Instructor Staff, Weapons Company, 3rd Battalion, 25th Marines, gives final instructions to vehicle drivers, during freezing weather conditions here.

The Akron, Ohio based Marines were practicing vehicle formations in preparation for an upcoming cold-weather active duty training period. This year's heavy snowfall and low temperatures in the Northeastern Ohio area have provided cold-weather training conditions for the Marines of Weapons Co.

Maj. receives medal for saving children's lives

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

MARINE FORCES RESERVE HEADQUARTERS, New Orleans

— Maj. Thomas D. Ignelzi, G-1, 4th Force Service Support Group, received the Navy and Marine Corps Medal Dec. 1, for saving two children's lives while in Puerto Rico.

Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson, commanding general, 4th FSSG, presented Ignelzi with the medal during a formation at Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters here.

In July 1996, Ignelzi, then a captain, was the officer-in-charge of the Marine Corps Analysis Team East Coast on temporary additional duty in Puerto Rico.

"I had gone down to LaConcha Beach behind my hotel to enjoy some of the scenery, when I heard people calling for a lifeguard," Ignelzi said. "Since I was down there in a Marine Corps tank-top shirt and shorts, I think people thought I was the lifeguard.

"When I looked out into the water, which was rough due to a recent typhoon there, I noticed two children out there struggling to stay above the water," continued the Joliet, Ill., native. "The water was really rough, and I thought about not going out there, but I

knew if I didn't go, no one would help them."

Making his way through the rough water of the beach, Ignelzi made it to the point where he had spotted the children only to find one still above the water.

"The whole way out there, I was getting creamed," said the father of two. "When I got there I only saw the girl so I put her up on the rocks to the breakwater and went down looking for the other child.

"I don't know if it was luck or fate, but I found him on the first try and pulled him to the surface," Ignelzi continued. "Once I had him above water I started to make my way back to the beach."

After fighting a tough undertow, Ignelzi made it back to the beach where he revived the boy.

"Once I was back on the beach, I looked back into water to see if the girl had made it in all right, that's when I noticed she had been knocked off the rocks and was about 200 meters out again," said Ignelzi.

Exhausted from the trip he had just made, Ignelzi headed back into the water to bring the girl in.

"I was seriously whipped from the swim out there and back, but I was able to use the waves and bodysurf my way



Lance Cpl. Mikel D. Kibel

Brig. Gen. Cornell A. Wilson, commanding general, 4th FSSG, presents Maj. Thomas D. Ignelzi with the Navy and Marine Corps medal during a formation at MarForRes Headquarters.

out to where the girl was," said Ignelzi.

Once he reached the girl, he put her on his back and swam through the rough water back to the beach, saving her life.

"I hadn't really thought much about that day until they were reading my award," said Ignelzi. "When I heard them describe that day and what I had done, I realized two kids were alive because I did what I had to do. It was quite a feat."



Maj. K. A. Johnson

TWIN CITIES, Minn. — Petty Officer 1st Class Randal E. Burris, corpsman, and Cpl. Maria H. Madigan, S-4, Detachment A, Marine Wing Support Squadron 471, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, carry bags full of toys from a Toys For Tots tent located at a local television here.

Together with Marines from Military Police Company A, 4th Marine Division, MWSS-471 distributed more than 350,000 toys to more than 160,000 children in the Twin Cities area.

MARFORRES

Focus on the Force

Sailors can earn new FMF warfare pin

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

MARINE FORCES RESERVE HEADQUARTERS, New Orleans — Sailors serving with active and reserve Marine Corps units now have a way to stand out among their peers. They can qualify to wear the Fleet Marine Force Warfare Specialist Pin.

Under a new program, sailors who meet the eligibility requirements will be authorized to wear the new warfare pin, which features the eagle, globe and anchor.

To be eligible, enlisted personnel must be permanently assigned to a FMF Unit on Type Two or Type Four sea duty, as defined in the Navy Enlisted Transfer Manual. Augmented personnel, mobilized to a FMF unit in direct support of the unit's primary mission, are eligible provided they are deployed for a minimum of 90 consecutive days.



Augmented or mobilized personnel shall use the FMF program specific to the unit to which they are attached. The sailor must also satisfactorily complete the Navy Physical Fitness Assessment, according to Master Chief Petty Officer Matthew D. Staden, command master chief, MarForRes.

For those sailors who are Enlisted Selected Reservists, they must serve a minimum of 24 months in a Naval Reserve FMF unit with satisfactory drill attendance. They must also complete two periods of Marine Corps Unit Annual Training or an equivalent Active Duty Special Work, of which a minimum of two periods of AT or equivalent ADSW is in the same Marine Corps unit in which the member is qualifying, said Staden.

After a sailor meets the eligibility requirements for the pin, he must complete the Personnel Qualification Stan-

dard for FMF Enlisted Warfare Specialist, which consists of basic battle skills, fundamentals of leadership and Marine Air-Ground Task Force operations.

After completing the PQS, the sailor will take a written exam and face a board where he or she must answer Marine Corps knowledge questions.

"One thing we want to stress is this pin is not only for corpsman," said Staden. "There are many rates of sailors who serve with Marine units. Those include dental technicians, religious program specialists, and a few others."

There will also be no grandfathering for sailors who already wear the FMF ribbon, according to Staden.

Sailors who previously qualified for the FMF ribbon will not be entitled to wear the FMF pin, until they complete the requirements.

"We have been working on this for this for a long time," said Staden. "Now we are finally being recognized for our service with Marines."

1st Sgt. donates over gallon of blood to Red Cross

Jennifer L. Mansfield

American Red Cross Greater Alleghenies Region

JOHNSTOWN, Penn. — Since his arrival here a little over a year ago, 1st Sgt. Paul K. Anderson, Site Support Element, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, has helped the local Red Cross Blood Region by donating his blood, time and energy. For his efforts, the Red Cross awarded Anderson with a one gallon donor pin Dec. 27.

To his credit, Anderson He serves as member of the Military Blood Services Committee for the Somerset/Cambria County Collection Territory.

Anderson also organized the first on-site bloodmobile during a drill weekend for MWSS-474, January 2000.

He supported other blood donation opportunities and currently assists in recruiting Marine blood donors on short notice when called by the American Red Cross

He acted as the official military escort for "Miss Pennsylvania" 1999-2000 to local national guard and reserve units to promote a blood program

Anderson has donated blood six times since his arrival in Johnstown, 15 months ago.



Photo Courtesy of Red Cross

1st Sgt. Paul K. Anderson receives his one gallon donor pin from Denise Nosko, Assistant Director, Donor Resources, American Red Cross Greater Alleghenies Region.

Marines support Orlando veterans with parade

Chief Warrant Officer Earl Schuette

Direct Support Motor Transport Co. A, Orlando, Fla.

ORLANDO, Fla. — When the city of Orlando decided to hold a Veterans' Day parade, the first in the city since 1982, they turned the Marines of Direct Support Motor Transport Company A, 6th Motor Transport Battalion for assistance.

First contacted in April by the Mayor's Veterans' Advisory Committee, the Marines made many contributions.

As a motor transportation company, the unit's Logistics Vehicle System, five-ton cargo trucks as well as the unit's personnel were used.

Further help was enlisted from Co. C, 8th Tank Battalion, Tallahassee, Fla., which sent an M-1A1 Abrams tank and Co. B, 4th Assault Amphibian Bn., Jacksonville, Fla., which sent an Assault Amphibious Vehicle to participate.

The idea for renewing the parade



Photo courtesy of Direct Motor Transport Co. A

An Assault Amphibian Vehicle from Co. B, 4th Assault Amphibian Bn., Jacksonville, Fla. passes under the national standard held up by two Logistical Vehicle Systems.

came from Orlando's mayor, Glenda E. Hood, who felt that the time was right to bring back what had been an Orlando tradition.

"I remember as a child coming to the Veterans' Day parades and what it meant to me as my mother and father

explained to me the freedoms that were protected because of our military personnel," said Hood. "It's made me realize...how very blessed we are in this country because of our military presence. It's important that we do our best to show our support."

MarForRes hosts NBC Defense, Force Protection Conference

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BELLE CHASSE, La. — Active duty and reserve Marines from Marine Forces Reserve units across the country gathered here Jan. 8, for the week long first phase of a three-phase Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Defense and Force Protection Conference.

The purpose of the conference is to provide updated information in NBC defense and force protection.

The first phase of the conference covered NBC defense, radiation, the use of the Single Site Storage Facility

in Fort Worth, Texas and NBC equipment issue.

"When these Marines leave the conference, they will be able to go back to their commanding officers and supply officers as qualified radiation noncommissioned officers, as well as with the knowledge of how to ship NBC gear to the Single Site Storage Facility," said Chief Warrant Officer David C. Gibson, NBC defense officer, MarForRes.

The second phase, held here the following week covers basic force protection issues and ways to curb vulnerability within or around their units.

"After this portion of the class, the Marines will be able to go back to their units and give a qualified vulnerability assessment, as well as pass along force protection information," said Gibson.

The third phase, to be held at Marine Forces Atlantic NBC, Camp Geiger, Camp Lejeune, N.C., will cover basic NBC familiarization with gear and equipment.

"The Marines should come away from this conference with a lot of knowledge," said Gibson. "That knowledge will help their units deal with NBC and force protection issues."

Chaplains, RPs gather for force-wide conference

Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

NEW ORLEANS — Marine Forces Reserve Chaplains and Religious Program Specialists from all over the country gathered here for Chaplain/Religious Specialist Training Jan. 18-20.

The training, which is held annually, covered subjects chaplains may deal with on a daily basis, such as suicide prevention and family counseling. They also discussed life in the military and how to write fitness reports.

"Reserve chaplains and active duty chaplains have so often been separated, that it has often prevented the reserves from getting the training we need," said Lt. John Gaycon, chaplain, Marine Wing Support Squadron 474, Willow Grove, Pa.

There were many guest speakers on hand to discuss various topics with the attendees. Rear Adm. Louis Iasiello, deputy chief of chaplains and chaplain of the Marine Corps, spoke with the attendees about things he plans to implement into current training programs available to Marine chaplains.

"The admiral, (Iasiello) talked about expanding things like expeditionary training," said Gaycon. "This means we'll be able to do more with the Marines we're supporting, and do it more proficiently."

"One of the important things I'm glad is being stressed



Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Chaplains and religious Program Specialists from across the country gather in New Orleans for Chaplain/Religious Specialist Training Jan. 18-20.

more and more, is being identified with the Marine Corps," added Gaycon. "The more they are able to participate in training with Marines, the more that they can be recognized by their units as chaplains to Marines. This definitely helps us help the Marines we serve."

"The conference seemed to go smoothly this year," said Gaycon. "I'm much more impressed with this year's presentations. They're more substantive than they were in the past."

Reserve Marines get new facility in Johnstown

Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

JOHNSTOWN, Penn. — With the need for Marines to stay on top of ever changing technology two Marine Reserve units recently relocated to a new state-of-the-art facility.

Marines from Detachment A, Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 775 and Detachment A, Marine Wing Support Squadron 474, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, officially opened the new Marine Corps Reserve Training Facility and Maintenance Complex here, Dec. 3.

"There are other services right here, which makes the location wonderful for joint training," said Brig. Gen. John W. Bergman, commanding general, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing.

Training isn't the only advantage. With so many Marine Corps units located near the east and west coasts, Bergman thinks this central location may be a good thing for recruiting.

"This gives the Marine Corps a chance to increase our presence in a more inland area," said Bergman. "This should increase recruiting prospects in the area."

"The building itself is said to be among the best training facilities in the Marine Corps to date. It was designed with the future in mind," said Bergman. "This is a good example of how America's tax money is spent to the country's advantage."

"It makes a permanent mark in the community, and is an outstanding environment for training our Marines," said Sgt. Stephen J. Adamczyk, training non-commissioned officer, MWSS-474. "This facility is even better than many I've seen on active duty installations. It is top of the line."



Master Sgt. Jerre S. Thomas

Sgt. Stephen K. Whittlesey, training noncommissioned officer, MarForRes, instructs Marines on how to conduct a patrol.

New Orleans warriors enhance skills



Master Sgt. Jerre S. Thomas

Lance Cpl. Derek J. Hill, G-4, MarForRes, puts a Military Integrated Laser Engagement System on his rifle before stepping off on a patrol.

“Every Marine is a rifleman. It doesn’t matter if you’re an administration clerk, a motor transport Marine or a computer bubba, all Marines, at some time, may be asked to provided security or conduct a patrol — and they need to know how to do it.”

—*Capt. Sean R. Dunn*

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

CAMP SHELBY, Miss. — Marines from Marine Forces Reserve Headquarters, New Orleans, turned off their computers, picked up their rifles and headed to the field for three days of land navigation, patrolling, and live firing here Dec. 5-8.

Even headquarters leathernecks need to keep their basic rifleman skills honed.

“Every Marine is a rifleman,” said Capt. Sean R. Dunn, patrolling instructor. “It doesn’t matter if you’re an administration clerk, a motor transport Marine or a computer bubba, all Marines, at some time, may be asked to provided security or conduct a patrol — and they need to know how to do it.”

The training exercise kicked off with a class on land navigation. For some of the Marines, this was the first time they had done land navigation since

going through Marine Combat Training. The class went over the basics of map reading, point plotting on a map, as well as how to determine an azimuth on a compass and measure the distance to a point on a map.

After the class, the Marines divided into four-man teams and headed off into the woods to find their points. Once all the Marines were back, they were given a second set of points to find. This time they had to find them in the dark. With only their compasses to guide them, the Marines set off and found their markers. After all the teams made it in from the night course, they were given a debrief by Staff Sgt. Mickey J. Gee, land navigation instructor.

"Some of the teams out here had a little trouble finding some of their points, but as long as they came away from the course having learned something about land navigation, then I'm satisfied," said Gee.

Hot Chocolate and coffee warmed up the Marines the next morning after a chilly night.

The next class was patrolling. During the class, the Marines learned the basics about patrol formations, what to do when they make contact with the enemy and how to exit and enter friendly



Master Sgt. Jerre S. Thomas

Marines rehearse setting up a 360-degree defense before stepping off on patrol.

lines. Afterward the Marines covered their heads and necks with camouflage paint, put Military Integrated Laser Engagement Systems on their rifles and headed off into the woods to conduct patrols.

On the patrols, the Marines were given certain checkpoints to find. In the process of finding the checkpoints, the

Marines had the possibility of making contact with other patrolling Marines in the area.

After patrolling most of the afternoon and setting up ambushes during the night, the Marines went back to the base camp and got some sleep before the next day on the range.

The next morning, the Marines tore down the base camp and headed to Range 87A, to do some live firing.

During the live fire, the Marines patrolled through some brush before getting on line and firing at targets set up at 75 meters, 150 meters and 300 meters.

"I thought the live fire was awesome," said Lance Cpl. Edgard Monico, postal clerk, MarForRes, New Orleans. "I thought it was as close to actual combat as we could have gotten on the range."

After the range, the Marines boarded the bus and headed back to New Orleans, wrapping up their field exercise.

"Other than it being a little cold out there, I thought the exercise was outstanding," said Monico. "I learned a lot and had a great time."



Master Sgt. Jerre S. Thomas

MarForRes Marines engage targets during the live fire portion of the exercise.

KC-130 squadron attains 100,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours

Maj. Michael S. Bueschel

VMGR-234, Fort Worth, Texas

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JOINT RESERVE BASE, Texas

— The Marines of Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 234 recently reached a flight hour milestone for a reserve air wing component of the Marine Corps.

On Nov. 18, two KC-130's departed from Carswell Field here with hopes of achieving the goal of 100,000 Class A mishap-free flight hours.

A Class A mishap is an aviation accident or incident which results in a fatality or the complete loss of an aircraft. This is the first time a Navy or Marine Reserve KC-130 unit has reached 100,000 mishap-free flight hours.

The accrual of 100,000 hours took 25 years to attain, following the squadron's transition to the KC-130 Hercules Aircraft in 1975 while stationed in Glenview, Illinois.

The squadron has flown around the world, to places such as Italy, Colombia, Egypt, Turkey, Norway, Thailand, Australia, Peru and Japan, where the risk for an accident was always present.

However, through constant training to ensure aircrew proficiency and quality maintenance, the inherent dangers were minimized and the squadron was able to focus on completing its mission.

VMGR-234 has been recognized in the past for its focus on safety by being awarded several honors. In 1997, 1998, and 1999 the squadron received the Order of Daedalians Flight Safety Award as well as being designated the Squadron of the Decade for the 1990's.

Additionally, VMGR-234 received the National Defense Transpor-



Photo courtesy of VMGR-234

A KC-130 from VMGR-134 cruises the skies.

tation Safety Award in 1999 and also the Chief of Naval Operations Safety Award for 1979, 1987, 1990 and 1997.

Flying aboard the Ceremonial Hercules was Lt. Col. Thomas F. Dietrich, aircraft commander; Capt. Douglas D. Stumpf, copilot; Staff Sgt. James S. Godfrey, flight engineer; Cpl. Billy M. Nation, flight mechanic; Staff Sgt. Paul T. Magsino, navigator, and Staff Sgt. Raymond D. Andersen and Cpl. Benjamin J. Grodi, loadmasters, pose after the historic flight.

W. Fisher, loadmaster. The lead KC-130 was the first to surpass the "flight safety" goal for the squadron. The occasion ended with the two KC-130's completing a formation fly-over of NAS Fort Worth and a brief ceremony at the hangar after the aircraft taxied in.



Photo courtesy of VMGR-234

The crew of the lead flight, Lt. Col. Thomas F. Dietrich, aircraft commander, Capt Douglas D. Stumpf, copilot, Staff Sgt James S. Godfrey, flight engineer, Cpl Billy M. Nation, flight mechanic, Staff Sgt Paul T. Magsino, navigator, and Staff Sgt Raymond D. Andersen and Cpl. Benjamin J. Grodi, loadmasters, pose after the historic flight.

W. Fisher, loadmaster.

The lead KC-130 was the first to surpass the "flight safety" goal for the squadron. The occasion ended with the two KC-130's completing a formation fly-over of NAS Fort Worth and a brief ceremony at the hangar after the aircraft taxied in.

CM

4th Recon jumpers hone aerial skills in Hawaii

Lance Cpl. Lain A. Schnaible

MCB Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

SCHOFIELD BARRACKS,

Hawaii – Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Co., Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, experienced the adrenaline rush of plummeting at 140 miles per hour toward Mother Earth as they performed parachute training at Drop Zone Lightning here Jan. 22.

With an average of 180 pounds of combat load, parachute rigging and oxygen tanks strapped to their backs, the Marines honed their airborne skills while increasing their combat readiness.

“Anytime we get the opportunity to jump we’re all over it, and we don’t like to train without a full combat load; there’s no reason to train without it,” said Staff Sgt. Gerald F. Rohn, 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. operations chief.

The Marines boarded an Air Force KC-130 at Hickam Air Force Base, anticipating the chance to complete their jumps and to improve their proficiency.

“It’s a risky business anytime you step off a plane, so the more we practice the better we get at it and the jumps become second nature. There isn’t any time to think up there, so we must be able to react quickly,” said Rohn.

It takes about 30 seconds from the time a Marine steps off the airplane at 1,250 feet until his knees buckle from the impact against the red soil of DZ Lightning, but it takes a minimum of three hours to plan out a safe, successful jump, said Rohn.

“The easy part is stepping off the plane. The hard part is the planning. There are a lot of safety concerns necessary to pull off a successful jump,” said Rohn.

Planning for a jump includes factoring in the weight of the jumper and his equipment, the speed of the aircraft and the wind speed in the jump zone,

and coordination with the aircraft crew and the qualified support personnel both in the plane and on the ground.

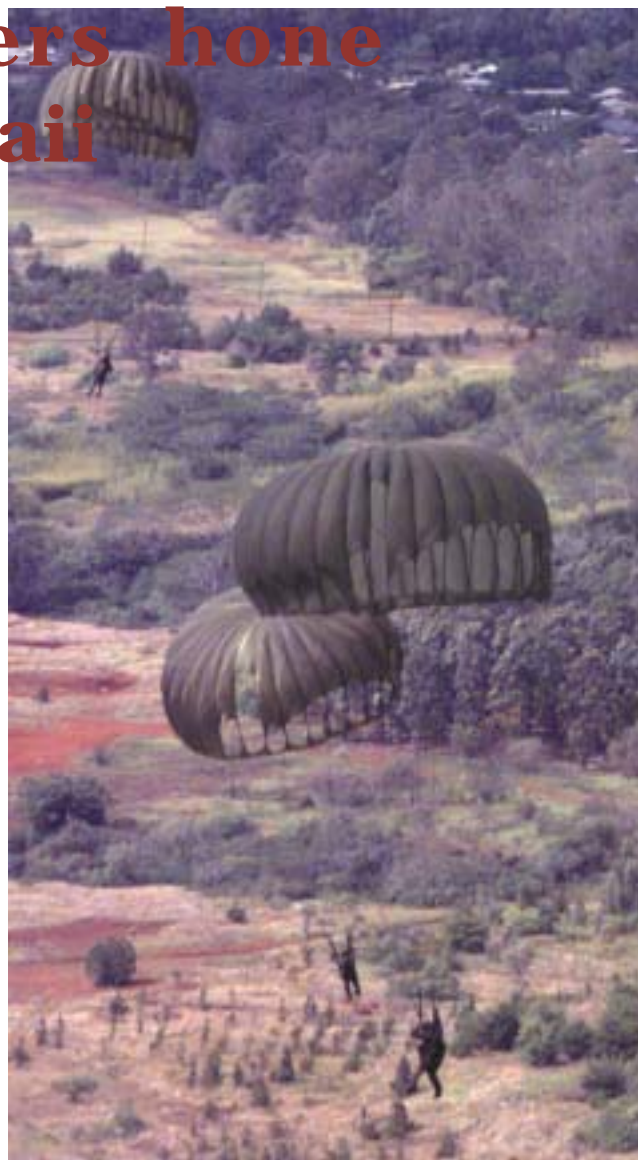
For instance, a Marine falling with a 22-knot forward air speed into an 18-knot headwind will be slowed down enough to be on target for the landing zone in an ideal situation. Cloud cover plays a large part as well, since low clouds can obscure the jumper’s view of the ground, creating a dangerous situation and giving the Marine precious little time to react and correct his fall.

The 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. Marines circled the skies above DZ Lightning as they waited for the optimal conditions for taking the plunge.

When the signal was given for the first group of jumpers to prepare, they made their way to the rear of the C-130, secured their static lines to a cable inside the aircraft and were checked by the jumpmaster to ensure the Marines were ready for their low-altitude plummet.

On cue, one by one the Marines made their leap into the Hawaiian backdrop where the uneven, tree-lined terrain of DZ Lightning would be their destination.

Though weather conditions held up long enough for just a few of the Marines to make the jump, each of the Marines were still able to sustain their skills as they took part in the essential plan-



Lance Cpl. Lain A. Schnaible

Marines from 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. drift through the Hawaiian sky during parachute training at Schofield Barracks.

ning stages of the training.

“The company always benefits from getting a little bit more experience with their equipment, as it helps to keep them a well-trained, effective unit,” said Rohn.

The reconnaissance company tries to jump once per month, which is more often than the Marine Corps sustainment requirement of once every 90 days, said Rohn. With that frequency of training, the Marines of 4th Force Reconnaissance Co. are able to safely and successfully enjoy each 30-second test of their parachute insertion skills.

CM

Charlie 1/25 assaults Army MOUT facility

Lt. Col. D. E. Kilbourn

1st Bn., 25th Marines, Plainville, Conn.

FORT KNOX, Ky. – The Marines of Company C, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, Plainville, Conn., are now better trained in the tactics and techniques of fighting in an urban environment. The company completed three days of intense training at the Army's Military Operations in Urban Terrain training facility here in January.

"The next conflict, large or small, will almost certainly be fought at least partially in an urban environment," said Maj. Michael Deem, commanding officer, Co. C. "We must be ready for all possibilities."

The training at Fort Knox included both classroom instruction and practical application in the areas of day and night patrolling, day and night assault and forcible entry, room clearing, counter sniper drills and defensive operations.

"The training was great," said Staff Sgt. Robert Palmer, company gunnery sergeant, Co. C. "The realism of each

situation put pressure on the Marines to perform and perform quickly. Everyone involved learned a bit about how they react under stress. It was a great learning experience."

The "town" had everything you would expect to encounter under actual circumstances. It contained a school, a grocery store, a police and fire department and a church. A sound system rigged throughout the buildings and streets added realistic effects.

"The sound effects were awesome," said Lance Cpl. Christopher Albert, rifleman, Co. C. "Everything was very realistic, right down to the furniture in the rooms and groceries on the shelves in the store."

Opposing forces familiar with the terrain proved to be the biggest chal-



Photo Courtesy of 1st Bn., 25th Marines

Marines from Co. C, 1st Bn., 25th Marines scale a wall during a building assault at the Army MOUT facility, Fort Knox, Ky.

lenge for the Marines. "This is the closest to real combat I've seen," said Cpl. Jason Hermenau, fire team leader, Co. C.

"Movement while keeping control and eyes on my team was very difficult," said Cpl. Joseph Mimambro, fire team leader, Co. C. "Movement against the opposing force was very difficult. You didn't know where they were until they began firing at you. You had to make a decision and keep going."

When the company arrived home, the Marines were exhausted, but there was a feeling of accomplishment gotten from putting all their efforts into a great training evolution.

CM



Photo Courtesy of 1st Bn., 25th Marines

Marines from Co. C, 1st Bn., 25th Marines prepare to assault a building at the Army MOUT facility, Fort Knox, Ky.



Photo Courtesy of 1st Bn., 25th Marines

Marines pull a simulated sniper victim to safety during training at the Army MOUT facility, Fort Knox, Ky.



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 24th Marines



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 24th Marines

(above) The 2nd Marine Raider Bn., emblem covers Cpl. Mason Yarbrough's casket.

(left) Marines from 3rd Bn., 24th Marines fire a rifle salute.

3/24 honors fallen Makin Raider

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

SIKESTON, Mo. — On a snowy December day 20 Marines from 3rd Battalion, 24th Marines, Bridgeton, Mo., traveled more than 320 miles to honor a fallen comrade.

The Marines performed the military funeral honors for Cpl. Mason Yarbrough, a member of 2nd Raider Bn., who died during a raid on Makin Atoll, an island in the Pacific, during World War II.



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 24th Marines

Pallbearers from 3rd Bn., 24th Marines stand ready to carry the casket of Cpl. Mason Yarbrough.

Yarbrough was the first of 19 Marine Raiders to be returned home after having been killed more than 58 years ago. The other 18 are currently in the process of being returned to their families.

The Marines' remains were recovered by the Army's Central Identification Laboratory (CILHI), based out of Hickam Air Force Base, Hawaii, as part of their effort to recover the remains of fallen servicemembers.

During an excavation dig in November 1999, researchers discovered a mass grave containing human remains, equipment and dog tags belonging to some of the Marines. After the discov-



Photo Courtesy of 3rd Bn., 24th Marines

Marines from 3rd Bn., 24th Marines fold the flag during funeral honors for Cpl. Mason Yarbrough, one of the Makin Raiders.

ery, the CILHI went through the extensive process of identifying the Marines.

Before returning to Missouri, Yarbrough was also given full honors by Marines from Headquarters Bn., Marine Corps Base, Hawaii, and Headquarters and Service Bn., Camp Smith Hawaii.

CM

Marine Warriors Stay Sharp



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

Detachment A, MWSS-473, Fresno, Calif.

FRESNO, Calif. – The year 2000 was a busy one for the Marines of Detachment A, Marine Wing Support Squadron 473, Fresno, Calif.

Throughout the year, these Marines were constantly keeping their unit ready for deployment by sharpening their skills any way they could.

The unit, which provides direct support for 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, constantly trained in their Military Occupational Specialties through various training exercises, by embarking on convoys, as well as training in the gas

chamber, swimming pool and on the rifle, pistol and shotgun ranges.

During the unit's off time, several of the Marines, led by the Communications Platoon, practice rear area security patrols, close combat training, and how to handle prisoners of war.

Every other summer the Marines of MWSS-473 get to put their skills to the test in the deserts of Marine Corps Air-Ground Combat Center, Twentynine Palms, Calif. During the various Combined Arms Exercises there, the unit performs a number of real-life scenarios to ensure they are proficient in their jobs.

CM



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

Sgt. Robert Lusk perfects his technique while practicing Line One of L.I.N.E. training.



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

(above) Sgt. John Henry prepares his vehicle for a possible ambush during a rear area security exercise.

(right) Marines from MWSS-473 practice firing the M-16A2 with their gas masks on during the filed fire portion of rifle qualification.



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

Marines from Detachment A, MWSS-473 hone their skills at the pistol range.



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

(above) A Marine from MWSS-473 properly clears his mask while training in the gas chamber.

(right) Sgt. Wesley Parkinson demonstrates the proper technique for searching prisoners of war.



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts



Sgt. Ryan K. Watts

(above) Sgt. Patrick Windus keeps a watchful eye from behind as he swims the length of the pool.

(left) Sgt. Carl D'souza executes a high sweep during L.I.N.E. training.

Echo 2/24 intensifies urban warfare skills

Staff Sgt. Robin Boggs

Co. E, 2nd Bn., 24th Marines, Des Moines, Iowa

DES MOINES, Iowa — After a month of record setting snowfall and low temperatures, the sun came out here for the first drill of 2001 for the Marines of Company E, 2nd Battalion, 24th Marines.

The company received some initial training in a simulated urban environment Jan. 6 at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

The training at Camp Dodge's Military Operations in Urban Terrain facility was the first step toward more elaborate MOUT training in upcoming months.

The company is planning to reunite in Florida for a culmination attack in an urban environment, said Maj. Todd Briggs, company commander.

While training in a field environ-

ment is more routine for Co. E, Marines must be able to deploy to any place in the world at a moment's notice and they are more likely today than in the past to deploy to an urban center. The only way to prepare for an urban deployment is to train in an urban environment, according to Briggs.

There are walls both literally and figuratively in an urban scenario. It is by far the most difficult type of environment to operate in, said Sgt. Robert Gilkeson, 1st Platoon guide.

"We're used to the open field. In a building, there's an immediate communication breakdown," said Gilkeson. "It's important for team leaders to take charge — they're making life and death decisions while the platoon commander may not even be in the building yet. In the field, he's usually visible."

The MOUT site at Camp Dodge has three farmhouses with outbuildings designed to resemble a real-life residential neighborhood, and one two-story building.

The facility may not be very impressive as far as



Staff Sgt. Robin Boggs

Marines from 1st Plt. rush through the snow toward the objective during a building assault.

combat towns are concerned, but it still offers significant "urban" training to a unit with little experience in that environment.

Sgt. Brett Mayne, the unit's MOUT instructor, briefed the Marines before they "took" the houses.

Mayne provided useful information to help Marines think on their feet during room-to-room combat.

For example, seemingly insignificant clues can help predict the layout of a room before someone even opens the door, such as noting what side the hinges are on and what direction the door swings. At the same time, there could be a booby trap on the other side, said Mayne.

The Marines practiced room clearing in the farmhouses, and then they were evaluated while conducting assaults on the unfamiliar buildings. The Marines impressed Mayne, particularly with their use of grenades and the way they maintained communication, even after suffering casualties.

In the long run, this small "urban center" could potentially play a critical role in the Marine Corps' overall preparation for conflicts in non-traditional battle zones, according to Briggs.



Staff Sgt. Robin Boggs

Lance Cpl. Sean Adams (standing) and Lance Cpl. Jerrod Grant clear a room during MOUT training at Camp Dodge, Iowa.



Private First Class Lynn Marie Robbins, a military police K-9 handler for the MCB Hawaii Military Police Department, draws a bead on Marine reservist and New York state trooper Staff Sgt. Scott M. Mahnke during "high risk" traffic stop exercises.

Sgt. Richard Holtgraver Jr.

Reserve Marines train MPs

Sgt. Richard Holtgraver Jr.

Marine Corps Base, Hawaii

MARINE CORPS BASE, Hawaii — Reserve Marines brought their civilian knowledge of crime fighting and passed it on to Hawaii's military and state police departments during a 16-hour seminar that included lectures and practical applications at the MCB Hawaii Military Police Department Jan. 17-18.

The six reservists took time from their annual training to give the two-day seminar, which bolstered the military police's already extensive training schedule. Members of Air Force police forces, Pearl Harbor Department of Defense security and Honolulu Police came to K-Bay to learn from the seminar.

"The Marines are seeing the civilian law enforcement side of the coin, as well as the Marine side, because the instructors are Marine reservists," said Staff Sgt. Jon D. Jerome, training chief for the Military Police Department, MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. "The Marine military police here are getting valu-

able knowledge of what to expect from the civilian community, and how to handle it."

Much of the lectures concentrated on felony vehicle stops and drug interdiction in today's modern society.

"What we want to impart here is civilian police experience and knowledge," said Warrant Officer Patrick E. Morrow, a Buffalo police officer. "The classroom instructions on tactical awareness to the practical application classes on felony vehicle stops will help the Marines become physically and mentally sound in the performance of their duties."

One of the reservists, Sgt. Michael Niezgoda, a N.Y. state trooper, was involved in a shooting in the line of duty just a week prior to coming to Oahu, and he brought much of that particular on-the-job experience to his lectures.

"I want to keep the Marines and the other branches of service, as well as the local civilian police agencies here abreast of what is going on in today's day and age of officer survival," said

Niezgoda.

Some of the most important information passed on to the police officers was how to conduct traffic stops safely, how to be aware for drugs and weapons, and handcuffing techniques.

In the practical application portion of the seminar, the reservists acted as law-breakers in certain scenarios, while the students responded to the situations using the knowledge they were given during the lectures.

Role-players realistically portrayed drunken drivers, drug users and felons in an effort to familiarize what

the students could be up against during what may seem like a routine traffic stop.

After each scenario was complete, the instructors went over what the students did well, and what they needed to work on in those situations. In one scenario, the participating M.P.'s believed that a crime was, or had been committed, but could not investigate any further because of the lack of physical evidence.

"You have to be very aware of suspects' civil rights," Niezgoda told the students afterwards.

Police officers have to pay close attention to the laws that pertain to search and seizure, said Niezgoda.

He also pointed out that today's criminals are well aware of the laws that protect them and what the police can and cannot do in certain situations. Much of the information handed out during the two days was vital to combating these law-savvy criminals. The knowledge and experiences shared by the reservists helped them perform their duties as civilian public servants in the safest manner possible.

Marine prepares for deployment to Gitmo

Sgt. Chet Decker

Marine Forces Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

CAMP ALLEN Norfolk, Va.

— Forgive Lance Cpl. Ricardo Espinoza for calling his uncle in Delano, Calif., as often as he can.

As a reservist on active duty status, Espinoza is training for a unique four-month deployment to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, as part of a provisional security platoon of 54 Marine reservists — all volunteers. Their presence will allow one of the active duty platoons to deploy elsewhere or return home for training.

As he readies for his first deployment, Espinoza often checks in with his uncle and business partner Alberto Padilla. It's likely that Espinoza, with two years in service, is one of the few lance corporals in the Marine Corps who owns his own business. As co-owner of a construction company, Espinoza, 25, has 20 employees under him.

Although the number of infantrymen under the junior Marine's supervision is a far cry from 20, Espinoza jumped at the chance to join the platoon, which deployed to Cuba in March.

By fulfilling the security requirements in Guantanamo Bay, the reserve Marines free up an active duty Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team, or FAST, platoon to respond to antiterrorism/force protection requirements that may emerge. This enhances the flexibility of the active duty forces, while offering a training and deployment opportunity for the reserve Marines.

Espinoza, who recently graduated from California State University, left his business because he wanted to be even closer to the Marine Corps.

"If the opportunity comes to volunteer for something like this again, then I'll take it. This is the best thing I've ever done," he said.



Sgt. Chet Decker

Lance Cpl. Ricardo Espinoza, of Delano, Calif., mans his post during a predeployment training security exercise.

It is a sentiment echoed by many platoon members — many of whom just wanted to see what a deployment was like.

"All of them at some point have probably missed the Marine Corps — I know I have," said Assistant Platoon Commander Capt. John Kelly of Wilkes-Barre, Penn. "I think that says a lot about their dedication and pride in the Corps."

The Marines arrived here Feb. 8, and have been on a steady diet of seven-days a week training ever since. Many of the Marines have already built camaraderie by training together in their respective reserve platoons in the past. The platoon has spent the past month learning the skills needed to perform security missions such as bomb threat, vehicle search, and entry control point procedures.

"They're getting the same exact package as a standard, basic security Marine would get before coming to (Marine Corps Security Force Battalion). It's just at a faster pace," said the Marine who oversees their training, Yakima, Wash. native Capt. Daron Mizell, who is in charge of physical security and tactics instruction.

"The Marines in this platoon have all had the basic training from boot camp

all the way through the school of infantry," said Maj. Christopher Dixon, the platoon commander from Stewartville, N.J. "During (this) training, we've taken their infantry skills and tailored them to security operations."

Their training culminated with a 24-hour security exercise in Chesapeake, Va., where the Marines put their newly-acquired skills to use against instructors, who played the part of aggressors. In Cuba, where security aboard the naval station is presently provided by FAST platoons, these reservists will perform a similar mission.

Not all of the reserve Marines, most of who are from California, have been drilling one weekend a month for long, however. The platoon's youngest Marine, freshly-promoted Lance Cpl. Jeff Scheibe, has not had time to. He is just five months removed from the School of Infantry and was going to school and working as a used car salesman until he got the itch to put on camouflage utilities again.

"When they asked for volunteers, I couldn't turn it down. I really haven't had the opportunity to do stuff like this," said Schiebe, who has just over one year in the Marine Corps.

CM

Reserves take on real-world missions

Staff Sgt. K. P. Laborde

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba

— A reinforced platoon of reserve Marines from 4th Marine Division recently departed the United States bound for Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where they will complete a four-month rotation providing security for the base. The reservists volunteered for the duty which will relieve some of the strain on active duty Marines caused by the extremely high operational tempo of the Marine Corps.

Most of the volunteers came from 2nd Battalion, 23d Marines, Encino, Calif. Following activation, they traveled to Norfolk, Va., where they received special mission training with the Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion before deploying to Cuba.

Op tempo relief missions like this benefit the reserves as well as the active duty Marines.

For the individual reservist, benefits include the opportunity for meritorious promotion, taking part in a real-world security mission, opportunity for civilian scuba certification, and Sea Ser-



Sgt. Chet Decker

Marines from 23rd Marines, San Bruno, Calif., man a security checkpoint during a predeployment training exercise. The Marines will deploy to Naval Station Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in March to provide relief for active duty forces.

vice Deployment ribbon and more, according to Maj. Christopher Dixon, commander of the security platoon.

“This is an opportunity to conduct live fire training. It will also be a chance for them to hone their leadership skills and small unit tactics,” he said. “That way they can return to their reserve units

as better trained infantrymen.”

The Guantanamo Bay security deployment is the first unit level op tempo relief mission for the reserves. The next is planned for 2002. UNITAS, a six-month deployment shipboard deployment around South America, would involve approximately 250 Marines.

“This is all part of op tempo relief,” said Lt. Col. Jose E. Rivera, Operations Officer, 4th Marine Division. “These are ways to assist the active components. They’re suitable for us to do and for the active duty components to release to us.”

“By not having to fill small-unit commitments, active duty units can keep unit integrity at least at the battalion level,” Rivera said. “Also, it provides an opportunity for reserve Marines to get overseas training, which is great for retention and overall training for our Marines.”

“We’re very excited to assist the active component. This will go a long way into forwarding the Force,” Rivera said.

CM



Sgt. Chet Decker

Lance Cpl. Luigino Lobello and Sgt. Mell Hogg, both of 23rd Marines, battle it out during the platoon's duals following days of close combat instruction.

Marines 'rough it' in Fort Dix snow

Army Sgt. Thomas Porter

444th MPAD, NJARNG

FORT DIX, N. J. — Marine reservists from West Trenton were looking for winter conditions for some cold weather training and found it big time — subfreezing temperatures at high-noon and a foot of snow at Fort Dix this past weekend.

The Marines of Battery G, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, were nonchalant about the rough conditions, however. Hot weather, cold weather, it's all the same to a Marine.

"As long as you have proper equipment, you can operate. Of course, the Marines have to operate in any weather," said Capt. Rich Gregg, inspector-instructor, Btry. G.

"Some people are complaining already about the cold. I tell them, compared to if they go to Korea this is sunny," said Gunnery Sgt. Armando Martinez, operations chief, Btry G.

"Before we came out here to train in the cold weather, we gave them a class about the cold and the best thing to do to keep warm," said Martinez. More than just feet and hands get cold in winter operations.

The powder that propels the unit's 155 mm Howitzer shells downrange is



Army Staff Sgt. Michael Druz, 44th MPAD, NJARNG

Marines of Btry. G, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines give a thumbs up after firing a 155 mm howitzer round down range at Fort Dix.

also affected, and that changes the way they work, said Martinez "Weather like this makes the powder colder, so when you fire the round, it's shorter; it might not get to where you want it to go. When

the powder is hotter, the round goes farther. But we have meteorologic reports of the existing weather conditions so we can compensate, which makes us more accurate," he said.

One of the highlights of the three-day exercise was the live-firing of the towed Howitzers, which exposed many of the younger Marines to the unleashed power of America's premier artillery piece.

Around noon Saturday, the unit's three Howitzers came to life, hurling several 155 mm rounds several thousand meters downrange.

"If we stayed indoors every time it gets cold ... well, there's been a lot of battles this country has fought where it's been pretty darn cold," said Gregg.



Army Staff Sgt. Michael Druz, 44th MPAD, NJARNG

A 155 mm Howitzer waits to be loaded by Marines from Btry. G, 3rd Bn., 14th Marines. The Btry. G Marines conducted cold weather training at Fort Dix, N.J.

CM

Marines learn key to survival, “Think”

Army Sgt. Thomas Porter

444th MPAD, NJARNG

FORT DIX, N.J. — Good equipment and thorough preparation sustained the Marines during their cold-weather field training exercise here, along with the advice of medical personnel.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Chris McRae, corpsman, Battery G, 3rd Battalion, 14th Marines, brought a wealth of experience dealing with cold weather and its effects on the human body with him.

The “doc” briefed the West Trenton Marines before they towed their Howitzers to the range for the live-fire exercise, during which they spent nearly three complete days out in the cold.

His instruction to the Marines can be summed up in a single word: “Think.”

Think about dressing in layers, think about staying hydrated, and think about staying dry. Think about those three key points and you’ll be okay, he told them.

The key is to remember you’re in the cold for three straight days, rather than for a few straight minutes, he said.

McRae has been an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) in his home state of New Hampshire for 14 years. He has served with Btry. G for more than five years.

LAYERS

“I tell them that what the Marines issue them is state-of-the-art. It’s got to be used the way it’s designed to be used, and they’ve got to dress in layers. Wear more than one pair of socks. The same thing applies to sleeping. The three-layer sleeping bag system we have now is excellent,” said McRae.

HYDRATE

“Everyone thinks dehydration only happens in the desert. But when we pull people out of the woods with hypothermia, we find they’re often dehydrated.”

He recommends drinking hot liquids, but staying away from coffee because caffeine is a diuretic.

STAYING DRY

McRae recommends wearing materials that “wick” moisture away from the skin. Cotton is bad, he said. Poly-Pro is better. Along those lines, he recommended against wearing clothes to sleep. That makes moisture build up against the skin, which might make you feel warm while sleeping in the sleeping bag but will make you doubly cold when you emerge.

Wear a hat and a single layer of Poly-Pro if you’re really cold at night, he said.

These three key points work in concert to keep soldiers comfortable in the cold, he said. If they “think” about them, they’ll be okay in the field, even when operating in a foot of snow here in January.

CM

Combat Slalom

CHICOPEE, Mass. — Marines from Anti-tank, TOW Platoon, 1st Battalion, 25th Marines, stage their gear before heading out to practice skiing techniques during a recent cold weather exercise at Westover Air Reserve Base here.

The cold weather training was part of their drill exercise for the month of January.



Master Sgt. Lee Forester

Reserve Marines join inauguration festivities

Maj. David K. Garrett

Marine Forces Reserve Public Affairs

WASHINGTON D.C. — A 90-man company of Marines and sailors representing Marine Forces Reserve passed in review as President Bush and guests watched from the reviewing stand in front of the White House during the Presidential Inauguration Parade here Jan. 20. The cold, wet winter weather which nearly cancelled the parade didn't dampen the spirits of the participants.

The unit was comprised of personnel from 4th Civil Affairs Group and Rations Company and Supply Company, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Washington D.C.; and B Company and D Company, 4th Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, 4th Marine Division, Frederick, Md. and Quantico, Va., respectively.

"It was only cold when we stopped moving," said Lance Cpl. Andrian Ambe, 25, an Information Technology Statistical Analyst, 4th CAG from Laurel, Md.

"Officials were planning to cancel the parade, but the Reserve Marines from the 4th CAG who traveled to Washington D.C. on their day off from other civilian commitments wanted a

chance to march before the president." said Lance Cpl. Jerom Yoon, 20, a full-time college student. However, after some quick negotiating between parade participants and inaugural organizers the decision was made to continue with parade festivities.

"I'm glad the decision to continue with the parade was made. To see people coming together from all of the states across the nation to participate in an event such as this was an exhilarating experience for me. The element of solidarity was really there! It was a time, which brought together individuals of different cultures and nationalities to share a common bond—that of being an American. I'm glad I had the opportunity to take part in the parade and wouldn't have missed it for the world no matter how bad the weather was," said Ambe. Ambe, a native of Nairobi, Kenya.

As temperatures continued to plummet and rain turned to snow, the MarForRes unit performed flawlessly as they rendered pass and review honors to president Bush. "Despite the fact I was freezing and soaking wet from a mixture of part snow and rain, I quickly became motivated when I saw and heard

Drew Carey, a former Marine, bark out a big OOH-RAH and shout—the parade is being led by the Marines!" said Lance Cpl. Christopher Saunders, 22, from Lanham, Maryland. "I volunteered for the parade and bought a new Service A blouse, Creighton shirt and pair of dress

shoes so I could look sharp in the parade. As the Commandant read the history of the Reserve units, I heard Larry King shout—*here come the Marines, undoubtedly the finest fighting force in the world!* To me, my participation seemed worth while at that point. It was an honor and privilege for me to take part in this occasion."

The parade was comprised of members from all the armed services. The military element consisted of five divisions in all from both active and reserve components. The Army led followed by the Marines, then Navy, Air Force and finally Coast Guard. The military units were responsible for keeping the parade moving in a forward direction despite being intermixed among civilian bands and the extreme noise being generated from the watching crowd.

The day prior to the parade was spent rehearsing at Camp Upshur, Quantico, Va. Numerous gear checks, full dress rehearsals and uniform inspections were conducted in Marine Corps fashion.

The manual of arms was even practiced into the early morning hours of Jan. 20. Reveille was sounded at 0430 the morning of the parade, last minute uniform and equipment inspections were performed and buses were loaded en-route to the Pentagon north parking lot where parade participants were greeted by the U.S. Secret Service and placed in quarantine.

"From the moment I stepped off on the parade route, the American public made me feel appreciated for what I do," Saunders added. "I would do it again if I had the opportunity. The weather and freezing temperatures really didn't bother me that much; I was too motivated to care."

CM



Sgt. James Covington

Capt. Greg McCarthy, the commanding officer of the Marine Forces Reserve formation (right) and Cpl. Paul Norris, the guide representing Marine Forces Reserve render honors as they pass their new Commander-in-Chief, George W. Bush.

Marines teach middle schoolers about life in Corps

Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Bn.
Knoxville, Tenn.

KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — Students from Harriman Middle School received a lesson in the opportunities and aspects of the Marine Corps at the Marine Corps Reserve Center here during the annual Groundhog Jobshadow Day Feb. 2.

The Groundhog Jobshadow Day was organized by 1st Sgt. Melissa Preast, inspector-instructor first sergeant, Company D, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion, 4th Marine Division, and 2nd Lt. Andrew Copeland, a Harriman native, who is temporarily assigned to the Reserve Center here.

Harriman City Schools were selected by the Knoxville Marines for the Marine Corps Adopt-a-School program, a community outreach effort to build awareness and support for community involvement in education by mentoring school age children.

“It’s exciting for me to introduce the Marines in Knoxville to my hometown community and, most importantly, I hope the kids will receive the greatest benefits offered from the Marines’ involvement,” said Copeland.

Throughout the day, the students learned about the mission of the Marine Corps; the importance of discipline, hard work, integrity, personal responsibility and accountability; Marine Corps terminology and its origins; the duty of a Corpsman; tactical vehicles and gear; and the experience of a Meal-Ready-to-Eat.

“The movies just don’t give a well-rounded picture of what we do. The Harriman students were amazed at how much we needed to know and how fit we have to be. It gave us an opportunity to see what a positive impact we, as Marines, can have on individuals,” said



Staff Sgt. Mark Hanks (left) and Sgt. Edgar McCaskill demonstrate the proper rope climbing technique to students from Harriman Middle School.

2nd Lt. Andrew Copeland

Preast.

The Marines in Knoxville will focus their efforts and resources on the Harriman City Schools for a period of approximately a year to year and a half.

“We want to provide as much positive influence as we can with our limited resources, while still accomplishing our primary mission of

preparing reserve Marines to deploy anywhere in the world and succeed in combat,” said Capt. David S. Cook, Inspector-Instructor, Co. D, 4th Combat Engineer Bn.

Projects include playground renovation, soccer field construction, classroom involvement, anti-drug messages,



Sgt. Morgan Clark gives the Harriman Middle School students a class on Night Vision Goggles.

2nd Lt. Andrew Copeland

and a variety of other activities to motivate children to set positive life goals and reduce their association with negative behaviors such as crime, drugs and violence.

CM

Arctic Care 2001 provides humanitarian



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

(above) Lt. Cmdr. Peter Kono, 4th Dental Bn., puts a filling in a tooth while in the village of Alakanuk during Arctic Care 2001.

(right) An Army veterinarian boards an Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter to transfer to the next village.



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BETHEL, Alaska – Soldiers, sailors, air men and Marines from various units across the country gathered here for Arctic Care 2001, an annual joint exercise providing humanitarian assistance to communities along the Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta and Western Aleutian and Pribilof Islands, Alaska.

During the exercise, led by the 4th Force Service Support Group, the servicemembers in the delta worked with the Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation (YKHC) to provide services in 10 different villages in that area.

The YKHC is an organization set up to achieve improvements in the health status of people living in the delta.

“Despite the great efforts of the Public Health Service, in most of the villages there is minimal access to medical or dental treatment,” said Navy Capt. Lew Libby, commanding officer, 4th Dental Battalion. “Because we have the logistics, training and manpower, we



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Lance Cpl. Ben Winfield cuts a board while building a shelter over a fuel tank.

were able to get out and help them.”

Arctic Care provided the villages with medical, dental, optometry and veterinary assistance, as well as having Marine combat engineers build structures around fuel tanks that would help prevent fuel from leaking onto the ground and into local water supplies.

“Arctic Care provided the servicemembers with training for direct support of real world missions,” said Libby. “In today’s world there are many military operations dealing with humanitarian assistance and this was a great way to train and help out U.S. citizens.”

One key element during Arctic Care was aviation support. “Without good air support, this exercise wouldn’t be possible,” said Libby. “Without the soldiers from Companies A and B, 4th Battalion, 123rd Aviation Regiment we would have had no way of transporting goods and personnel to and from the villages.”

More than 180 servicemembers participated in the exercise and were able to complete their mission of helping the local residents and maybe learned a little bit about their culture as well.

CM

an assistance to Alaskan communities



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

(above) A Navy dentist works on a child in the village of Kotlik during Arctic Care 2001.

(left) Airman 1st Class James Prisk, 611th Medical Expeditionary Flight, fits a new pair of glasses on a girl in the village of Alakanuk.

Docs, Dentists make impact in villages

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BETHEL, Alaska – As the Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters carried them back here from the villages along the Yukon-Kuskowim River delta, a look of accomplishment came across the faces of sailors from 4th Medical and 4th Dental Battalions, 4th Force Service Support Group.

The sailors were here as part of Arctic Care 2001, a joint exercise providing humanitarian assistance to communities along the Yukon-Kuskowim River delta and Western Aleutian and Pribilof Islands.

After a brief indoctrination upon their arrival, the medical and dental personnel were divided into teams and then spent more than a week in the villages along the river delta providing care to the native Es-

kimos who live in this region.

“We (the Medical Bn.) saw 910 patients, said Petty Officer 1st Class Calvin Davis, 4th Medical Bn., Savannah, Ga. “We also trained 67 people in CPR and had a 95 percent immunization rate in the villages.”

The Med. Bn., contingent consisted of eight medical officers, including physicians, an anesthesiologist and a pharmacist, along with 21 corpsmen.

The Dental Bn. contingent was larger with 22 dental officers and more than 30 dental technicians.

“The dentists saw 1,452 patients,” said Chief Petty Officer Howard Overacker, 4th Dental Bn. “They did basic cleanings, fillings, crowns and even some extractions.”

Some of the challenges the dentists faced in the villages was working with gear different from that they use in the private practices and working with other

sailors from different units.

“It was a lot of fun being here,” said Lt. Cmdr. Peter Kono, 4th Dental Battalion, Sacramento, Calif. “It is always a challenge working in a field environment with different gear and different people.”

The trip was not all work. When the sailors were not busy seeing patients, they took time to enjoy some of the local culture.

“We had the opportunity to see and participate in a traditional Eskimo dance, said Kono. “We also got to try some Eskimo cuisine like moose and caribou.”

“Overall, it was a great exercise,” said Davis. “These sailors accomplished more than was expected of them and I think they had a lot of fun.”

CM

6th ESB helps Alaskan environment

Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

BETHEL, Alaska – While most of the servicemembers participating in Arctic Care 2001 provided medical, dental or veterinary services, the Marines of Headquarters and Service Company, 6th Engineer Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Portland, Ore., helped preserve the Alaskan environment.

The H&S Co. combat engineers, here as part of their annual training, built structures around fuel tanks in nine different villages along the Yukon-Kuskokwim River delta.

“The structures we built around the fuel tanks contained a fuel containing membrane,” said Sgt. Jeremy Baker, team leader, H&S Co. “If fuel leaks from one of the tanks, the membrane we put down will contain it and prevent it from leaking into the villages’ ground water supply.”

The engineers, who were divided into three teams of six Marines, spent about three days in each of their separate villages building two structures in the first two villages they visited and one in the last one. The villages that received the fuel tank structures were Alakanak, Kotlik, Scammon Bay, St. Mary’s, Marshall, Lower Kalskag, Chefornak, Eek, and Kongiganak.

The Marines began the exercise by sending a team along with the exercise’s advanced party to make sure the supplies needed to build the structures reached each of the villages.

Once the main body of Marines involved in Arctic Care arrived here, they attended a cultural class and were briefed on what to expect in each of the villages.

The next day, they boarded Army CH-47 Chinook helicopters and landed



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Lance Cpl. Andrew Miller, combat engineer, 6th Engineer Support Bn., works on the frame of a fuel shelter in the village of Alakanuk during, Arctic Care 2001.

in the different villages.

Once there, the Marines gathered their supplies and moved to their construction sites. In a few of the villages the Marines had High Mobility Multi-purpose Wheeled Vehicles to transport supplies, but in others they had to be creative. Some of the teams used sleds and snow machines to transport supplies, while others used the ice to slide gear to the different construction sites.

Another obstacle the Marines had to overcome was working in the below freezing temperatures. Since the structures were outside, the Marines spent between 7-10 hours a day working in the arctic weather.

“The weather made it a little difficult for us, and staying warm was sometimes hard, but we were able to get our mission completed and on time,” said Lance Cpl. Ben Winfield, combat engineer, H&S Co.

Working hard in the cold weather wasn’t the only thing these Marines did. When the day’s work was completed, the teams took the opportunity to enjoy some of the local village’s hospitality.

“We got to see a few Eskimo Dances and enjoy some of the local food like smoked salmon and caribou and some of the other teams watched school



Cpl. Zachary A. Bathon

Marines saw boards for the fuel shelters.

basketball games,” said Winfield. “It was great to get to experience a different culture like that.”

After all their projects were finished, the Marines packed up their gear, boarded helicopters out of the villages and came back to Bethel, ready to return home happy, having completed another successful annual training.

“We were thanked and told we did a great job in every village we went to,” said Baker. “The people really seemed to appreciate the job we had done for them.”



4th Supply Bn. gets 'mission capable' rating

Pfc. Shane Buckley

Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany, Ga.

MARINE CORPS LOGISTICS BASE ALBANY, Ga. —

Reserve Marines here conducted their Mobilization Operations Readiness Deployment Test Feb 2-3 as part of their February drill.

The MORDT is an operation performed by Detachment B, 4th Supply Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, Albany, Ga., every three years. It is comparable to an Inspector General inspection of active duty Marine forces.

Ninety-three Marines belonging to the battalion, and staff noncommissioned officers and officers from all over the United States, participated in this year's MORDT, giving Detachment B, a personnel efficiency rate of 98.9 percent.

"We were very pleased with this year's results," said Maj. Thomas Fisher, special projects officer, 4th Supply Battalion. "As far as personnel, administrative, medical and dental readiness, my staff and I received a mission capable status which means if we had to leave tomorrow, we could quickly and efficiently."

The battalion overall received a mission capable status from the inspecting officer, Maj. Paul Mengle, operations officer, 4th FSSG.

In the morning, the Marines went through various check-in stations, just as they would if they were deploying.

The inspecting staff and unit personnel covered everything from a Battle Skills Test to health and dental care for deploying Marines and their family members to Service Record Book audits and gear issue.

"I was very impressed with the utilization of space and personnel," Mengle said.



Marines from 4th Supply Bn. receive a class at Albany Regional Airport during a Mobile Operations Readiness Deployment Test Feb 2.

"The unit even implemented a career planner station, identification card and dog-tag check, which is not required by the MORDT training order," he said.

Following the necessary administrative work, 4th Supply Bn. loaded their necessary gear and personnel into vehicles and, under military police escort, proceeded to Albany Regional Airport.

The group followed all required precautions and letters of instruction necessary if this training exercise was a real-world deployment.

"That [the convoy to the airport] was also something that we don't usually see with other units," Mengle said.

"All they're required to do is ensure their personnel and gear are ready for transport. They don't have to go anywhere," Mengle added.

According to Inspector-Instructor staff, they wanted to make the exercise as real-life as possible so the Marines could get a feel for what it would be like if they were really deploying.

All the Marines had was what they would actually leave with, and they left the rest behind, they added.

"We really need to give some credit to the Family Service Center and the MPs," Fisher said.

"The FSC is an invaluable resource that will enable us to better handle a de-

ployment when it arises," Fisher said.

"The MPs also were helpful in making sure the convoy to the airport was not interrupted and remained together," he continued. "Getting there is a large part of the battle. Making sure we all get there together also plays into that."

Once the Marines arrived at the airport, they received a lesson in history about World Wars I and II. They were also taught the invaluable lesson of learning from mistakes and repeating them.

The next day, an after action report was given to the battalion. The overall inspection results read, "Personnel readiness and attendance results significantly exceeded requirements and the unit demonstrated satisfactory operational readiness. The most significant issue at this time is the change in the unit's mission, which is receiving significant attention at the unit and the Battalion."

"We're always ready for change," said Maj. Phillip Millerd, Bravo Company Detachment's commander. "That's what the Marine Corps is all about — adapt and overcome."

Former Marine decorated for Korean service

Air Force Staff Sgt. David Byron

920th Rescue Group Public Affairs

NAVAL AIR STATION FORT WORTH JOINT RE- SERVE BASE, Texas

— It's a quiet night, dark and cold. The mountain slope is covered with small scrub trees — not much to hide behind. It's necessary to stay low, close to the ground.

It's 2 a.m., April 9, 1953, and the Korean peninsula is in the throes of war. The still night is eerie, out of place for a land that has already seen so much fighting and bloodshed.

Robert Henry, then a fresh-faced 18-year-old Marine Private First Class, operating a Browning Automatic Rifle, along with the rest of his team, is a quarter of a mile behind enemy lines on his way back from a reconnaissance mission.

Suddenly, the stillness of the night is shattered as the air is filled with sounds of explosions.

"I was hit," said Henry. "To this day, no one is sure whether it was a mine, mortar or machine gun fire." Henry was more than just "hit" that night. His right leg was injured by the initial blast and he was shot 22 times in his left leg, twice in the buttocks and at least once in the head.

As Henry's team pulled him along to safety, his right foot got caught on a tree root and pulled his foot and part of his leg off. Once safely back at camp, his fellow Marines administered first aid and put him on a helicopter.

He made it to a mobile Army surgical hospital where they amputated the remains of his right leg between his knee and hip.

A stay in a hospital in Japan was followed by a trip back to the United States and a medical retirement.

When he arrived at his home in Texas, there was no hero's welcome, no parade and no chest full of medals to show.

That changed Nov. 10 in Building

1049 here.

Marine Aircraft Group 41 held a decoration ceremony for Henry as part of their 225th Marine Corps birthday celebration.

Henry never received his decorations from the war and, until recently, was unaware of what he had earned.

"When we learned of it, we jumped all over it," said Master Sgt. Jon McCracken, adjutant chief, MAG-41. "It blows us away that the government didn't recognize him 47 years ago."

Among the decorations Henry received was the Purple Heart Medal, Korean Service Medal with two bronze stars, Korean War Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation ribbon, Navy Unit Commendation ribbon, Marine Corps Rifle Marksmanship Badge and Marine Corps Honorable Discharge button.

Anyone who has ever been around a Marine knows that there is no such thing as a "former" Marine. According to McCracken, a simple look into the eyes of Henry will confirm that he is still a Marine.

The Marines at MAG-41 felt the Marine Corps Birthday would be the most appropriate time to correct the oversight.

"We couldn't say no to this, we've got to take care of Marines," explained McCracken. "We take pride in taking care of our own."

Though MAG-41 was eager to see Henry receive the recognition he earned, it would never have happened without the help of his friends.

"I never really talked about it before," Henry said. "There are certain things you just can't talk about."

He said he originally began thinking about the medals three years ago when his brother-in-law gave him a shadowbox with decorations most Korean War veterans received. Then, this



Air Force Staff Sgt. David Byron

Col. Colin Lampard, commanding officer, MAG-41, 4th MAW, pins the Honorable Discharge lapel button on Robert Henry during a ceremony in which Henry was decorated for his service during the Korean War.

past July, he was talking to a friend about them who suggested he check it out by writing to the Navy Personnel Command.

Shortly after, he received a plain brown envelope with his decorations inside.

He took the envelope and its contents to a local American Legion Post where he showed it to a friend, retired Air Force Master Sgt. Keith Bailey.

"Look what I got today," Henry said to Bailey.

Bailey began talking to Henry about the decorations and the events that led to them. He said he felt he should be honored with more than just a plain brown envelope in the mail. Bailey set out to do something about it.

"I started talking to a few people about it and decided to talk to the Marines at the reserve base," said Bailey. "When the Marines got excited about it, it just made me pursue it more."

Like the Marines, Bailey said he also feels the military needs to look after its own.

“The Marines have been outstanding in this,” said Bailey. “But, there are a lot of veterans who haven’t gotten the recognition they should, and I want to make sure Robert Henry gets his.”

The ceremony was not the only high point for Henry. Besides a number of family members who came in from around the country to share the special day with him, a close friend from Korea was in attendance.

Willy “Digger” Helms flew in from South Carolina to share the event with his old friend and partner.

Helms was Henry’s BAR ammunition carrier on the night Henry was wounded.

According to Henry, Helms was only a foot or two behind him. Helms helped to carry Henry out of the firefight.

Until two weeks before the ceremony, when his sister ambushed him with a surprise guest while he was visiting her in South Carolina, Henry hadn’t seen Helms since he was medically evacuated out of Korea.

“It was real emotional — we talked for two days and nights straight,” said Henry. “Digger being here made it that much more special.”

Henry said he felt a bit overwhelmed by all the activity and work people did to make this happen. He also said he wanted to make sure that he didn’t receive any more than he’s entitled to.

“I feel very humble about this,” Henry said. “There are so many others who did more than me. I saw many men lay down there lives for their country over there.”

The Marines of MAG-41 believed he did plenty and wanted to show their appreciation.

“What an opportunity to take care of Marines,” said Col. Colin Lampard, commanding officer, MAG-41. “It doesn’t matter whether it was today, yesterday or 47 years ago, he made sacrifices for his country. We’re going to make it right — Marines take care of Marines.”

CM

Former Marine tanker awarded 50 years later

Staff Sgt. Allen Russo

MP Co. Twin Cities, Minn

TWIN CITIES, Minn. —

Former Marine sergeant Joe Seviola enlisted in the Marine Corps in February 1951.

After basic training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego and Infantry Training School at Camp Pendleton, Calif, Seviola was sent to the Korean peninsula.

Once in Korea he was assigned to Company D, 1st Tank Battalion, 1st Marine Division, where he served as a loader and gunner aboard an M-46 tank.

Most of his time was spent along the east coast of Korea and in North Korea until he was assigned to Operation Snatch, which served as security overwatch for peace delegates.

In 1952, Seviola was transferred back to the States as part of Headquarters Co., 3rd Tank Bn., 3rd MarDiv.

Nearly 50 years after returning

home, Seviola received the recognition he has been waiting for. On Nov. 11, Seviola was honored by the Marines of Military Police Co., Headquarters Bn., 4th MarDiv, Twin Cities, Minn.

During the ceremony, Seviola was presented with the Combat Action Ribbon and the Korean War Service Medal from the Korean government. Seviola’s other awards include the Korea Service Medal with three combat stars, the National Defense Service Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal, and the Presidential Unit Citation for the 1st MarDiv.

“I felt it was important to receive the awards in front of Marines and to convey to the Marines of today the common thread that binds us all together,” said Seviola.

CM



Photo Courtesy of MP Co.

Former Marine Sgt. Joe Seviola addresses Marines of Military Police Co., Twin Cities, Minn, after being presented two awards for his service during the Korean War.

Marines lend hand to cub scouts

Staff Sgt. K. P. Laborde

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

More than 50 Marines and corpsmen from Marines Forces Reserve, New Orleans, La., were “on their honor to do their best” Oct. 27-29, as they assisted local Cub Scouts during their annual encampment at Camp Salmen Boy Scout

Reservation, Miss.

The Marines helped out with many aspects of the encampment, ranging from logistical support, involving setting up tents and providing vehicles, to transporting people and gear around, to providing Marines to augment the Cub Scout Staff, monitoring a variety of

events and games for the Scouts.

The volunteers from MarForRes took on the challenge of providing support and responded in outstanding fashion.

“It has been five years that the Marines have supported the encampment and this year was just great,” said Keith Christopher, director of support services, Boy Scouts of America, Southeast Louisiana Council. “Everything ran smoothly and without problems.” According to numerous Cub Scouts and parents, the volunteers provided the best support they had ever seen.

LCpl. Matthew E. Frybarger, comptroller, MarForRes, and LCpl. Doss J. Burleson, G-6, MarForRes truly demonstrated the advantage of having motivated Marines around when they saved two Cub Scouts from drowning during an accident with the canoe ride portion of the events.

“All I heard was “ah,” and then I saw the overturned boat,” said Frybarger. That’s when the two Marines took to the water and pull out the two Cub Scouts.

The Marines provided a vital service while helping the Cub Scouts and some commented on how much fun it was for them and what it meant to be of service.

“It was great just to see what a kick the kids had out there. That ties into one of the reasons why I became a Marine: to help people,” said, LCpl. Lewis L. Brown, logistics, 4th Marine Division.

The encampment came to an end with a concert by the Marine Band New Orleans and a display of a 4th Marine Air Wing AH-1 “Cobra,” which launched off as part of the finale.



Staff Sgt. K. P. Laborde

Volunteers help cub scouts climb a rope during the encampment.

CM



Staff Sgt. K.P. Laborde

Lance Cpl. Lewis L. Brown motivates Ashley Cobb, 6, of Kenner, La., to cross the logs on the Camp Salmen "Obstacle Course."



Staff Sgt. K.P. Laborde

Cub Scouts use teamwork to get a ball through a small hole in the parachute.



Staff Sgt. K.P. Laborde

Michael Pettit, 7, of Kenner, La., crosses the rope bridge carefully at Camp Salmen.



Staff Sgt. K.P. Laborde

(above) Cpl. Marco A. Garcia helps a Cub Scout get his boat ready. (right) Cpl. Carlos Rodriguez gives instruction to Jordan Burns, 7, of New Orleans during the Cub Scout Encampment.



Staff Sgt. K.P. Laborde

Savannah Marines test gear for 21st Century

Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marine Forces Reserve, New Orleans

SAVANNAH, Ga. — Marines with 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Company, 4th Landing Support Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group, here recently had an opportunity to assist the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab at Hunter Army Air Field, Ga., in exploring new ways to boost efficiency in the process of delivering aerial cargo by testing equipment the Marine Corps may be using in years to come.

During any given operation or exercise, the need for supplies to be delivered using parachute drops or sling rigging may arise. This can require aircraft to fly into potentially hostile areas.

“When executing a parachute drop, there are a lot of things that need to be taken into consideration. The size of the area in which the drop needs to take place, the altitude at which you execute the drop, and current weather conditions, including wind, are a few of these factors,” said Capt. Jim Stone, Combat Service Support Representative, Marine Corps Warfighting Lab. Making aerial deliveries while monitoring all of these factors has become known for being less than accurate. “This is sometimes called ‘spray and pray’,” said Stone.

“In order to take out a little of this guesswork, the Marine Corps Warfighting Lab has been testing Improved Cargo Aerial Delivery Systems (ICADS),” said Stone.

ICADS are basically remote-controlled parachutes. There are different sizes for loads of different weights, and the ones being tested right now are relatively inexpensive in comparison to others that are sold in the civilian market.



Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

The experimental parachutes being tested are remote controlled to enhance the accuracy of the drop. The load pictured landed within 30 yards of the one before it in gusting wind conditions.

Based on the guidelines set forth in the mission need statement, experiments have been directed towards finding an effective system that can perform at altitudes, speeds and distances that provide the lowest level of potential danger to the delivery aircraft. They need to give Marines an agile, accurate, unmanned, aerial delivery capability that is simple enough to be used and maintained with considerable ease.

Marine reservists contributed to the experiments by packing the parachutes, loading them into helicopters, and actually operating the remote controls for the parachutes. Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron (HMH) 772, Willow Grove, Pa., also contributed, supplying helicopters and pilots for the experiment.

“I’ve had the opportunity to use a couple different systems, including the ones we’re testing now, which are made by Sherpa. The ones we’re testing now are much easier to operate than others I’ve encountered,” said Sgt. Christine Weber, 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Co.,

Despite early problems acquiring a range to use as a drop zone, spirits remained high throughout the experiment.

Judging by the high motivation after the exercise, most of the Marines participating in the experiment seemed pretty satisfied with the new gear, but some said they would like to do more testing.

“These tests came out pretty good, I think, but we need to test them at higher altitudes than we have so far,” said Weber. “I could see something like this being adopted by the Marine Corps eventually, but I think we still have quite a way to go.”



Sgt. Matthew W. Scotten

Marines from 2nd Beach and Terminal Operations Co. watch as the new parachute makes its way to the ground.

Building peace through building business

Marine Corps aids Kosovar entrepreneurs

Keith Boydston

Stars and Stripes, Kosovo Bureau

UROSEVAC, Kosovo—In a region where unemployment hovers around 70 percent and ethnic tensions remain high, a plan to rejuvenate a struggling post-war economy appears to be gaining momentum.

And it's the Marine Corps that's fueling the resurgence.

"Our goal is to restore Kosovo to normality and end factional and ethnic strife," said Capt. Varick Ready, head of business development programs, 4th Civil Affairs Group, Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. "And as Kosovars grow more prosperous, then extremists will lose influence."

The way to do that is help Kosovars make money.

Ready's plan is based on brains, not bullets.

He owns a master's degree in business administration from Yale University and another degree from the University of Dublin, Ireland. When not in

uniform, Ready, 31, works as a financial consultant for several Fortune 500 companies and a handful of federal government organizations.

"Back home, I can certainly improve somebody's profit margin by a few percentage points," said Ready.

"But here, I can actually make a difference. I can improve the quality of life for hundreds of thousands of people."

Ready's civil affairs unit sponsors a business from the Urosevac this week. It was the sixth traveling seminar the group had coordinated in the region and it drew almost 200 small business owners and potential entrepreneurs.

"Our purpose is to provide these people with the tools to create and maintain a sustainable wealth," said Ready. "We want them to look after and take care of themselves."

Civil affairs unit members interviewed and recruited dozens of nongovernment agencies and matched them up with the needs of local businesses.

"We're here to help them with skills, techniques and planning ability," said Gina Kuta, accounting specialist, Kosovo Business Support program, a nongovernment organization funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. "We want to reach these people and tell them that there is assis-

tance out there."

The short-term goal is to provide a link between the support organizations and local businessmen.

"We've got to bend over backwards to support these guys," said Ready.

"The (nongovernment organizations) are excellent mechanisms to reach different ethnic groups and we're the bridge for them to do that."

Most people attending the seminar had fewer concerns about mechanisms and bridges as they did about money and where to get most of it.

"I just wanted to get information on what kind of assistance we can get from international organizations," said Pritero Jashari, an architect student whose father owns a surveying company. "People here have lots of ideas, but one of the problems is that there is lots of money."

Ready's plan calls for a solution, but he said it should be driven by the nongovernment organizations.

"Credit should be accessible and loans made available," he said. "There has to be some incentives created for these businesses."

Others agreed.

"I think this gives the chance for everybody to start to build something useful," said Jahir Luri. "I've learned about several (organizations) that might be able to help me."

In the future, Ready hopes to conduct weeklong seminars designed to provide in-depth training for the local businessmen.

For now, his efforts seem to be paying off.

"The NGOs are becoming very eager to participate in the program," said Ready. "What that says to me is that they're getting some good returns on their investments."



Photo Courtesy of Keith Boydston, Stars and Stripes

Capt. Varick Ready, left, of the 4th Civil Affairs Group based at Camp Bondsteel, addresses a group of about 200 potential small- and medium- sized business owners through an interpreter in Urosevac.

CM



Sgt. Scott Gilbert

An F/A-18A Hornet pilot gets guided into the ordnance loading area on the MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay flightline.

Reserve Air Wingers rock Hawaiian skies

Cpl. Trent Lowry

MCB, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii

MARINE CORPS BASE HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, Hawaii — Volleys of screaming thunder have rocked the skies here since F/A-18 Hornet fighter jets arrived on base Feb. 2, from mainland-based Navy and Marine squadrons.

Though all the visiting squadrons and MCB Hawaii tenant units are sharing the flightline with each other, each of the guest aviators have a unique mission.

Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 112, 4th Marine Aircraft Wing, "Cowboys," from Naval Air Station Fort Worth, Texas, arrived in support of 3rd Marines' Marine Air Ground Task Force training at the Hawaii Combined Arms Operation exercise on the Big Island at Pohakuloa Training Area.

The combined active duty and reservist pilots will fly a few live-fire missions in cooperation with 3rd Marines

ground forces, said Staff Sgt. Gregg W. Dunavan, power lines staff non-commissioned officer in charge, VMFA-112.

"The pilots we have are some of the best in the fleet. This should be very good training for them," Dunavan said.

In contrast to the seasoned fliers of VMFA-112, the pilots of Navy Strike

"The pilots we have are some of the best in the fleet. This should be very good training for them."

— Staff Sgt. Gregg W. Dunavan

Fighter Squadron 125 are in the infancy of their airborne careers. The squadron, based at NAS Lemoore, Calif., is the next step in the training of Navy and Marine Corps pilots, giving them their first exposure to the F/A-18 fighter jet.

As part of their training, the VFA-

125 pilots come up against "enemy bogeys," provided by the pilots of the third squadron making MCB Hawaii its temporary home, VFA-201, the "Hunters."

The members of the visiting squadrons said that the Hawaiian sunshine, though a welcome alternative to the cooler weather of their native stations, is not having an affect on their ability to complete their mission.

"We're doing the same job, on the same schedule, as what we'd be doing at home. We're just working hard, because the biggest thing is getting the pilot training done, which is why we're here," said Dunavan.

The guest aviators will get the opportunity to have fun, but more importantly they'll be diligent in ensuring that the Navy and Marine Corps needs are met and make sure that the quality of the sea services' air power remains at its optimum level.

CM

Marine makes impact on local community

Gunnery Sgt. Bernie Gearon

4th Landing Support Bn.

VIENNA, Ohio — When Champion resident Andrew Mikel left the Youngstown area in February, the community lost one Marine's vision of what it means to be a citizen.

Mikel, a member of the Inspector-Instructor staff at the Marine Corps Reserve, Vienna, was promoted to Warrant Officer and left to attend officer training in Quantico, Va. Later in July, Mikel will attend Engineer Officers Course at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Local community involvement, along with his military duties, have rated as a top priorities for Mikel since he joined the Marine Corps.

While in the Mahoning Valley during the last two and a half years, he has been a scout master, Sunday school teacher, and publisher of a quarterly historical heritage magazine.

Additionally, he coordinated the unit's Toys For Tots campaign in 1998 and 1999, and assisted Marines from Equipment Company, 4th Landing Support Battalion in their construction of soccer and softball fields in the city of Garrettsville.

"This is the warmest community we have lived in," Mikel said. "By that I mean the friendliness of the people here. It has been real easy to make friends here. My wife loves this area."

Mikel said his motivation to be involved in the community stems from his early days as an enlisted Marine and the philosophy of World War II Gen. Victor H. Krulak.

When he first entered the Marine Corps, Mikel said a gunnery sergeant questioned why he joined. He said the gunnery sergeant thought everyone had to have some ulterior motive such as money or travel opportunities, but Mikel insisted he joined because of his love of country.

Krulak's book, "First to Fight," echoed Mikel's sentiment, that Marines

should not only be well trained to fight America's battles, but also be solid citizens. Krulak wrote, "(Marines) should make every effort, by means of historical education and patriotic address, to cultivate in their hearts a deep abiding love of the Corps and Country."

Mikel has taken this mission to heart.

Among his other endeavors, Mikel and his wife, Rebecca, publish "Christian Heritage Magazine," which they began at their previous duty station in California. The magazine, which has more than 100 subscribers nationwide, examines historical writings of many founding fathers and historical leaders of the United States.

As a result of his research, Mikel said he has realized that many people involved in the birth of the United States loved their country deeply.

He has taught a three-month course in American History at his church and been asked to speak at many churches and community organizations in the area, such as the Daughters of the American Revolution.

"I think one of the reasons some of the founding fathers put their country above their immediate family was that they were concerned about what kind of country their grandchildren and great grandchildren would live in ...," Mikel said.

"This is an old Puritan idea that understood changes or projects begun today might not benefit society until later on in history."

Lives that Mikel has touched, including his Boy Scouts from Troop 27 of Warren's Great Western Reserve Council, may end up being evidence of this theory. William Bonser, a Boy Scouts committee chairman in the council, said Mikel was one of the most prolific scout masters he's seen in his 40-year involvement in scouting.

"He was great," Bonser said. "He was as perfect as a scout master could

get. He showed up the first day with a uniform and the boys enjoyed his leadership. They learned a lot about being a citizen and went camping together at Lake Erie."

Champion Presbyterian Church has also played a role in Mikel's life in the Mahoning Valley, where he and his wife, have attended with their three children, Lindsay, Andrew II, and newborn Christina.

"We did one special issue of the (Christian Heritage) magazine where we explored just Ohio history," he said. "I was amazed about the rich heritage that Ohians share. It helped me further my love of this area and state."

Mikel's love of history and country extended to the veteran community when he led the area's Toys For Tots program.

Mikel said the strong involvement of the area's veterans made it enjoyable to work alongside them in causes that would benefit the entire community.

"I've been overwhelmed by the amount of veterans who are so community focused, with the intention of making theirs a better place," he said of veterans, such as members of the local chapters of Marine Corps League and Veterans of Foreign Wars. "I take my hat off to what they're doing in the area."

"They don't lose their sense of duty when they return to their individual communities," Mikel continued.

It is this duty to country that Mikel said he will carry with him not only during his tour in the Marine Corps, but for the rest of his life.

"I think I will be able to better serve my country," Mikel said as he looks forward to his new position as an Engineer Equipment Officer at Camp Lejeune.

A new concept for a new r

Military housing construction, maintenance and management are being turned over to private industry. The future of building modern up-to-date housing for Marine Corps families is today.

Capt. Steve A. Butler

Headquarters Marine Corps, Washington D.C.

HEADQUARTERS MARINE CORPS — The Marine Corps has a wealth of age-old traditions that are adhered to in a steadfast manner. Honor, courage, discipline and commitment are traits that shall never become obsolete.

However, new ways of conducting business are needed in order to remain a viable organization during evolutionary times. An essential change in quality of life is currently in progress.

A new military housing privatization project, commonly known as Public/Private Venture (PPV), is underway.

Military housing construction, maintenance and management are being turned over to private industry. The future of building modern up-to-date housing for Marine Corps families is today. The Department of the Navy (DON) will rely, first, on PPVs to meet its housing needs where communities cannot meet housing requirements.

PPVs will focus on privatizing the replacement, renovation, maintenance, and operation of existing government housing. If additional housing is required, PPVs

will be used to construct affordable units. PPVs will also be the first choice for accomplishing whole-house revitalizations or replacements.

PPV funding is considered as a method of getting more housing for the same dollars, not the same housing for less money.

Any savings achieved through PPVs will be re-invested in housing accounts.

Experience has shown that degradation in benefits has a negative impact on retention. Good housing is important to military morale and retention. In 1996 Congress passed legislation authorizing DoD to team up with private developers to rectify the depleting quality of military family housing.

The specific reasons are simple: there isn't enough available base housing and the existing structures are old with costly repairs required.

Sometimes military families are on waiting lists for years or are subject to "substandard" living conditions due to aging infrastructures that could possibly be over 48 years old. The new housing privatization initiatives are specifically designed to reduce worries of military servicemembers whose families are subject to the care and welfare of base living.

The private housing industry is a dynamic business entity that adjusts quickly to changing circumstances.

A developer partners with the DON with an understood level of ownership interest. The partnership provides low risk and maximum flexibility for DON participation in PPVs. Further, this allows the private partner to realize the normal tax shelter benefits of

ownership and, accordingly, enables the Marine Corps to apply a larger share of net cash flow to high-quality operations and maintenance, and the periodic recapitalization of the units, over time.

When fully functional, the PPV projects will maximize the benefit of government investment by demonstrating a long-term cost effectiveness in comparison with a Military Construction (MILCON) project. Service members will have first priority on these housing units. Although highly unlikely, due to military housing shortages, PPVs will accommodate civilian rentals, with lease length limited appropriately, if units cannot be filled with service members. All housing units built on federal property will address emergency, security, and law enforcement services, as well as jurisdictional matters, for civilian occupants.

One objective is to provide affordable housing at 0 percent out of pocket to the servicemember and still provide predictable cash flows for the developer/investor. To achieve 0 percent out-of-pocket over the term of the deal, rental increases must be equal to or less than BAH increases as well as reasonably accommodate utility expenses. Rents will be established in the same manner as in the private sector (i.e., by unit size and quality.). Rent scales and the mix of units will be developed to accommodate the needs of the region. Waiting lists will be developed for bedroom requirements. When a PPV unit becomes available for a particular family size, the local Housing Office will refer the first family on the appropriate waiting list to the property management office.

The DON utilizes a con-

densed acquisition process that both minimizes the time, effort and money interested parties must put into the process and ensures the selection of the most responsible/capable ("highly qualified") private company, investor, or development team with which the Marine Corps will partner. Military site locations are subject to a series of investigations, evaluations and analyses carried out jointly by the activity, Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), private contractors, and others to establish the preferred project concept for subsequent introduction into the acquisition process.

The first PPV military housing ground breaking ceremony was conducted Dec. 4, at the Deluz housing area on Camp Pendleton, Calif. Approximately 712 renovated or newly constructed housing units are planned for this location. The first 200 new units are expected to be ready for occupancy within 9 to 12 months.

Overall, privatization is intended to be more economical than ownership. Life cycle cost will be greatly reduced for DON privatization vice ownership. The responsibilities of DON ownership includes new/replacement construction costs, programmed and future recapitalization requirements, design/source selection funding, projected operations and maintenance costs less referral and major repairs, and school impact aid for housing on government land which will diminish with privatization efforts.

For example, PPV life cycle cost comparisons for San Diego indicate that privatization should result in a 9-11 percent savings over 50 years.

Most importantly, this monumental effort will undoubtedly improve the quality of life for the servicemembers and their families stationed aboard Navy/Marine Corps military bases worldwide.



Reservists fill spaces in real-world contingencies

Cpl. Scott Whittington

MCAS Miramar, Calif.

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif.

— When real-world contingencies like Desert Storm, pop up around the globe and Marines are sent in to handle the situation, often times, Marines still have responsibilities which need attending at home.

That is when the Individual

Mobilization

Augmentee Detachment is put into action, filling vacancies with reservists and replacing deployed Marines. The IMA Det. here is made up of active-duty reserv-

ists and is responsible for Marine Corps Air Bases West which include Marine Corps Air Stations Yuma, Pendleton and Miramar.

"If there's a real-world contingency and the Marine Air Wing units leave, the IMA Det. takes over. We're like the bubble gum that holds the ship together until all the reservists get here," said Lt. Col. Ralph E. Lowell, IMA Det. operations officer.

Newly arrived reservists from the detachment here fill various Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron jobs from the Provost Marshal's Office and the control tower to the chow hall and logistics.

Before these billets can be filled, the reserve Marines must be processed. This falls into the hands of the Mobilization Processing Center, a section of IMA Det. The process-

ing center handles the incoming and outgoing flow of all reserve Marines.

"We make sure they have everything they need to be on active duty, such as uniforms and gear," said Capt. Richard G. Batiste, operations and logistics officer, Reserve Support Unit here.

To ensure quick transition for reservists, IMA Det. personnel undergo a rigorous training exercise.

The first two weeks of June Pretrained Individual Manpower Mobilization Exercise tests the capabilities of the RSU, the parent of the IMA Det. One thousand letters are

sent out to reserve Marines, asking for their volunteered participation. It is hoped that 50 will participate in the exercise, which simulates reservists filling the holes left by deployed Marines.

The IMA Det. is only activated by a Presidential Select reserve call up. This would only happen in situations like Somalia or Desert Storm.

Reservists have been called "weekend warriors," but they fill gaps when active-duty Marines take to the field, protecting America and her allies.

"The reserves are an integral part of filling in manpower short falls in regular forces," said Lowell. "We might be 'weekend warriors,' but when the Marines leave, number one they appreciate us and number two, they hope we're there."



"We might be 'weekend warriors,' but when the Marines leave, number one they appreciate us and number two, they hope we're there."

— Lt. Col. Ralph E. Lowell

U.S. MARINE CORPS
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
MARINE FORCES RESERVE
4400 DAUPHINE STREET
NEW ORLEANS, LA 70146-5400

OFFICIAL BUSINESS

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

